

Maraldo, Dean

From: Maraldo, Dean
Sent: Thursday, April 27, 2017 11:24 AM
To: Maguire, Andrew
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN - 4/12/17 AM update

Andy: I had in my notes that USS was going to provide an MSDS for the product that spilled. Did you ever get a copy? If so, I could use a copy as well. Thanks.

=====
Dean Maraldo
Water Enforcement & Compliance Assurance Branch
U.S. EPA - Region 5
77 West Jackson Blvd. (WC-15J)
Chicago, Illinois 60604
ph: (312) 353-2098
fax: (312) 385-5394
e-mail: maraldo.dean@epa.gov
<http://www.epa.gov/enforcement/>

From: Maguire, Andrew
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 8:11 PM
To: Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN - 4/12/17 AM update

Dean,

These were given to me on 4/12 by Mark Henry of US Steel. I'm not sure who took them or when exactly. I believe they would've been taken on 4/11

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 26, 2017, at 15:22, Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov> wrote:

Andy: Do you know who took these pics and when? It would be really helpful for the inspection report and the case.

Thanks,
Dean

From: Mendez, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 11:33 AM
To: Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>; El-Zein, Jason <el-zein.jason@epa.gov>; Brown, Jaime <brown.jaime@epa.gov>; Ribordy, Michael <ribordy.mike@epa.gov>; Mankowski, Matthew <mankowski.matthew@epa.gov>; Augustyn, James <augustyn.james@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>; Deamer, Eileen <deamer.eileen@epa.gov>; dgreinke@idem.IN.gov

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Cc: Behnke, Kristina <behnke.kristina@epa.gov>; Beslow, Mike <beslow.mike@epa.gov>; Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Thomas, Craig <thomas.craig@epa.gov>; Lippert, Jeffrey <lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Cashmere, Jason <cashmere.jason@epa.gov>; Goeks, Todd <goeks.todd@epa.gov>; Johnson, Mark <johnson.mark@epa.gov>; Karecki, Edward <karecki.edward@epa.gov>; Rowan, Anne <rowan.anne@epa.gov>; Reshkin, Karen <Reshkin.Karen@epa.gov>; Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>; Donnelly, Peggy <Donnelly.Peggy@epa.gov>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>

Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN - 4/12/17 AM update

Update as of: 4/12/17 at 10:30 CST

Overview: On 4/12/17 at approximately 9:00 CST, Stakeholders convened to discuss the ongoing response at US Steel regarding the release of hexavalent chrome. Stakeholders present included USEPA, US Steel, IDEM, National Park Service and Indiana American Water, Portage Police and a representatives for the beaches of City of Portage.

- US Steel has alleged that the source of the active release has been stopped.
- Active residual can still be seen in water sampling.
- Levels of chrome at the outfall were as high as 2231 ug/L overnight.

EPA, State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action:

- Indiana American Water's intake is still currently shut down.
 - Sampling results of water intake is showing samples slightly above the detection limit but were rerun for confirmation and found to be at or below the limit. Additional sampling is going to be performed.
- Sampling has started inside Burns Ditch this morning
 - Sampling will duplicate the spots sampled on 4/11/17 as well as adding a mid-water depth sample taken with tubing attached to a pump on the boat.
- National Park Service has currently closed numerous beaches both east and west of Burns Ditch.
 - National Park Service's regional offices have suggested that they will not reopen the beaches without this additional sampling with includes a shore sediment sample.
 - EPA with National Park Service have identified additional sampling locations both east and west of Burns Ditch along the lakeshore where both water and sediment samples will be taken.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672

<2.jpg>

<1.jpg>

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Maraldo, Dean

From: Mendez, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2017 9:52 AM
To: Maraldo, Dean
Subject: Us steel letter to IDEM
Attachments: image1.JPG; image2.JPG; ATT00001.txt

Categories: Red Category

-Tom



United States Steel Corporation – Gary Works
One North Broadway, MS 70-A
GARY, IN 46402

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

April 17, 2017

David Greinke
Office of Water Quality
Indiana Department of Environmental Management
100 North Senate Avenue – Post Office Box 6015
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Subject: United States Steel Corporation Gary Works – Midwest Plant
NPDES Permit IN0000337
Total Chromium and Hexavalent Chromium exceedances Outfall 304 and
Discoloration of Burns Waterway from Outfall 004

Dear Mr. Greinke

This letter is intended as an update to the five-day letter that was submitted on April 15, 2017 regarding a discoloration on Burns Waterway and total chromium and hexavalent chromium incident that occurred on April 11, 2017, at the United States Steel Corporation (“U. S. Steel”) Gary Works – Midwest Plant (“Midwest”) at outfall 304 (NPDES Permit IN0000337 effective April 1, 2016) and is based upon information available to U. S. Steel at this time. As previously reported, this incident involved the failure of an expansion joint.

Once repairs were made, U. S. Steel began a controlled, phased and highly monitored restart of its operations on April 14, 2017. The process began with a line-by-line restart of operations that do not use chromium in their processes. U. S. Steel took samples from the outfalls every two hours throughout that startup. All sample results showed that the outfalls were in compliance. On April 17, 2017, the process lines that contain chromium were started up in the same controlled, phased and highly monitored manner. U. S. Steel and participating government agencies have continued the vigorous visual inspections and water quality monitoring at the outfall and in the areas surrounding the outfall.

Going forward, U. S. Steel and participating government agencies will continue to monitor water at and around the outfall. Once all lines are operating, U. S. Steel will continue to sample the facility every two hours for an additional 24 hours. If all sample results are within compliance with permit limits, then the following sampling protocol will be followed throughout the Month of April:

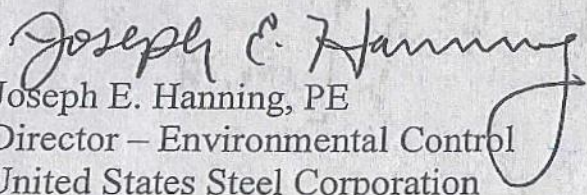
- Daily grab sampling at Outfalls 104 and 204 for hexavalent chromium
- Daily 24 hour composite sampling at Outfalls 104 and 204 for total chromium

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Based on the results of the NPDES 24 hour composite samples taken during the event, approximately 346 lbs. of total chromium were discharged through Outfall 004 via Bubble Outfall 304 between April 11, 2017 and April 12, 2017. Based on the information we have to date, of the 346 lbs. of total chromium released, approximately 298 lbs. were comprised of hexavalent chromium.

U. S. Steel requests that this submittal be afforded confidential treatment under all applicable statutes.

If you have any questions about this matter, please call me at (219) 888-4500 or email me at JEHanning@uss.com.

Sincerely,



Joseph E. Hanning, PE
Director – Environmental Control
United States Steel Corporation
Gary Works, Midwest Plant, East Chicago Tin

CC: Nicole Gardner (electronic)
Indiana Department of Environmental Management
Office of Water Quality
NPDES Permits Section
100 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2251

N. Ream – IDEM Northwest Regional Office
D. Smiga – U. S. Steel
M. Henry – U. S. Steel
E. Williams – U. S. Steel
R. Casselberry – U. S. Steel

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Korleski, Christopher

From: Korleski, Christopher
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2017 9:01 AM
To: Poy, Thomas
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

TXI

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2017 8:16 AM
To: Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Yes, Chicago's sampling clearly shows that levels in the lake are at "background" levels.

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Korleski, Christopher
Sent: Friday, April 21, 2017 4:02 PM
To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Tom – the only Qs I have is whether this matter is "over" and to confirm that there is no risk of harm to the environment or public health. Thanks.

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]
Sent: Friday, April 21, 2017 1:31 PM
To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Ames, Mort <Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org>; Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; dave McMillan <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Wheat, Christopher <Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Saleh, Hassen <Hassen.Saleh@cityofchicago.org>; Bresnahan, William <William.Bresnahan@cityofchicago.org>
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth <MHolling@idem.IN.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Last Lake Survey Results on new grid sample scheme. All results in agreement with our quarterly samples. Attached is the final map, data and QA/QC.

Alan

Korleski, Christopher

From: Korleski, Christopher
Sent: Friday, April 21, 2017 4:01 PM
To: Poy, Thomas
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN
Attachments: SWPP 68th Crib 04171817 Cr+.xls.xlsx; US Steel Lake Survey East of SWPP 68th Crib 041717 Cr+GIS.xls.xlsx; 386795_20170419__EMT-IL_20170419-TAT.pdf; 386851_20170419__EMT-IL_20170420-TAT.pdf; 386779_20170419__EMT-IL_20170419-TAT.pdf; MP_CTR_JSM_Sample_Locations_USSteelSpill_DetailedTable_0417Survey_20170421.pdf

Tom – the only Qs I have is whether this matter is “over” and to confirm that there is no risk of harm to the environment or public health. Thanks.

From: Stark, Alan [mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org]
Sent: Friday, April 21, 2017 1:31 PM
To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Ames, Mort <Mort.Ames@cityofchicago.org>; Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; dave McMillan <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Wheat, Christopher <Christopher.Wheat@cityofchicago.org>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.OMalley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Saleh, Hassen <Hassen.Saleh@cityofchicago.org>; Bresnahan, William <William.Bresnahan@cityofchicago.org>
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth <MHolling@idem.IN.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Last Lake Survey Results on new grid sample scheme. All results in agreement with our quarterly samples. Attached is the final map, data and QA/QC.

Alan

From: Stark, Alan
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2017 3:55 PM
To: Poy, Thomas; Ames, Mort; Murphy, Barrett; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie; Litherland, Gary; Caminer, Irene; Putz, Andrea; dave McMillan; Wheat, Christopher; Kelly, Mike; Schwer, Patrick; Skiadopoulos, Frank; O'Malley, Mark; Salinas, Eduardo; Saleh, Hassen; Bresnahan, William
Cc: Mary Hollingsworth; Korleski, Christopher; feighnerb@michigan.gov; Stark, Alan
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

All

Today we sampled a new grid area that is northwest from the initial grid location.

Attached is a Heat Map that overlays colors on the GIS map based on concentration of Cr6+, a good qualitative approach only.

On 4/12/17 shows the highest concentration at 1G and 1GD in red. The next day 4/13/17 another six locations were added to the east. The Heat Map shows the extreme levels being diluted and spread through the Grid Sampling area. Finally, 4/14/17 shows the concentration being pushed to the west, due to the current changes to the west.

Kuefler, Patrick

From: Bair, Rita
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2017 11:54 AM
To: Bassler, Rachel; Poy, Thomas
Cc: Maraldo, Dean; Bahr, Ryan; Kuefler, Patrick; Kelley, Jeff; Korleski, Christopher; Rowan, Anne
Subject: RE: Northwest Indiana Times Question - chemical spill

We responded fairly recently to a citizen question about Cr-6. I thought I would forward a copy in case it could be useful. Michele Palmer responded with help from Kim Harris our Health Effects specialist. I will look into what 2011 guidance she is referring to and get back to you.

On Oct 25, 2016, at 2:41 PM, Palmer, Michele <Palmer.Michele@epa.gov> wrote:

Dear Ms. Jackson:

Thank you for your inquiry to the US EPA about the presence of hexavalent chromium (Cr-6) in your drinking water in Maywood and other cities in Illinois. US EPA is also concerned about the potential health implications of trace levels of Cr-6 in our drinking water.

Ensuring safe drinking water for all Americans is a top priority for the US EPA. The agency has collected nationally representative data on the occurrence of both total chromium and Cr-6 through its third Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring study (UCMR3) (see <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr>). US EPA has a drinking water standard or maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 100 parts per billion (ppb) for total chromium, which includes Cr-6.

California EPA (Cal/EPA) has promulgated an enforceable MCL of 10 ppb for Cr-6. While this standard only applies to water systems in California, less than 2 percent of the UCMR3 systems nationally reported Cr-6 at levels exceeding this standard.

Prior to developing their standard, Cal/EPA developed a public health goal (PHG) of 0.02 ppb for Cr-6 in July 2011. While PHGs are not regulatory standards, it is required by state law that drinking water standards for chemical contaminants are set as close to the corresponding PHG as is economically and technologically feasible. In many cases, it is not feasible to set the drinking water standard for a contaminant at the same level as the PHG. The technology to treat the chemicals may not be available, or the cost of treatment may be very high. The state considers these factors when developing a drinking water standard.

Based on the Environmental Working Group's Cr-6 testing performed in 2013-2015, mentioned in your newspaper article in the Village Free Press on September 24, 2016, the concentrations of Cr-6 in the water in Maywood ranged from 0.18 to 0.23 ppb. Although above the PHG of 0.02 ppb, this is well below the Cal/EPA standard of 10 ppb. Illinois EPA has also done an evaluation of Cr-6 levels throughout the state, which you may wish to view at <http://www.epa.illinois.gov/topics/drinking-water/public-water-users/chromium-6/index>.

US EPA is actively working on the development of the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) assessment of Cr-6, which will include a comprehensive evaluation of potential health effects associated with Cr-6. US EPA expects that the draft IRIS assessment will be released for public comment in 2017. You may view the

status of the IRIS assessment at the following website:

https://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/iris2/chemicalLanding.cfm?substance_nmbr=144&forceAssessmentTab=true. The information in IRIS thus far indicates that Cr-6 is a known carcinogen for lung cancer by the inhalation route of exposure. At this time we do not know if there are other cancer risks associated with the ingestion of Cr-6.

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act, before US EPA can decide whether to regulate a contaminant, it must meet three criteria:

- It may have an adverse effect on the health of persons;
- It is known to occur or there is a substantial likelihood that the contaminant will occur in public water systems with a frequency and at levels of public health concern; and
- Regulation of the contaminant presents a meaningful opportunity for health risk reductions for persons served by public water systems.

US EPA will be making a decision in the future about regulating Cr-6 based on these criteria.

Thank you for your interest in Cr-6 in your drinking water. If you have further questions or if I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 312-353-3646 or palmer.michele@epa.gov.

From: Bassler, Rachel

Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 11:58 AM

To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>

Cc: Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>; Bair, Rita <bair.rita@epa.gov>; Bahr, Ryan <bahr.ryan@epa.gov>; Kuefler, Patrick <kuefler.patrick@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; Rowan, Anne <rowan.anne@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Northwest Indiana Times Question - chemical spill

+ Anne, yet another reporter asking about this.

Here's the latest reporter question (Bloomberg BNA): Did I get this right? From your fact sheets: EPA's current chromium-6 drinking water standard is 100 parts per billion (0.1 mg/l). Because data collected as part of a 2008 Department of Health and Human Service's National Toxicology Program suggested chromium-6 may be a human carcinogen if ingested, EPA is currently reviewing whether its 1991 drinking water standard for total chromium, which includes chromium-6, needs to be revised. EPA guidance issued Jan. 11, 2011, recommended certain surface water systems sample their source water, plant treated water and water in the distribution system for chromium-6 on a quarterly basis.

Rachel Bassler
Press Officer
U.S. EPA Region 5
bassler.rachel@epa.gov
p: 312-886-7159
c: 312-914-3393

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From: Bassler, Rachel
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 11:23 AM
To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Cc: Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>; Bair, Rita <bair.rita@epa.gov>; Bahr, Ryan <bahr.ryan@epa.gov>; Kuefler, Patrick <kuefler.patrick@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Northwest Indiana Times Question - chemical spill

Thanks Dean and Tom. I continue to receive questions on whether there is an action level for hexavalent chromium and if 2 ppb is above that level? I drafted a statement to share with interested reporters based on your responses. Thoughts?

Statement on Hexavalent Chromium at U.S. Steel chemical spill

EPA has a national drinking water standard for total chromium of 100 parts per billion. The maximum contaminant level for total chromium includes both trivalent chromium and hexavalent chromium of 100 ug/L or 100 parts per billion.

EPA does not have a hexavalent chromium standard; however, EPA is currently evaluating health effects data to determine a hexavalent chromium maximum contaminant level is needed.

Preliminary data suggests that hexavalent chromium from the spill is not present near drinking water intakes.

For additional information on chromium drinking water standards, please visit our website:
<https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations/chromium-drinking-water>

Rachel Bassler
Press Officer
U.S. EPA Region 5
bassler.rachel@epa.gov
p: 312-886-7159
c: 312-914-3393

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 6:51 PM
To: Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>
Cc: Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>; Bair, Rita <bair.rita@epa.gov>; Bahr, Ryan <bahr.ryan@epa.gov>; Kuefler, Patrick <kuefler.patrick@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Northwest Indiana Times Question - chemical spill

Dean is correct. There is an MCL for Total Chromium, which includes both Trivalent Chromium and Hexavalent Chromium, of 100 ug/L or 100 ppb. Trivalent Chromium and Hexavalent Chromium readily convert to one another. There is no MCL for Hexavalent Chromium. EPA is evaluating the health effects data to determine whether the Total Chromium MCL needs to be modified or a Hexavalent Chromium MCL is needed.

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

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On Apr 13, 2017, at 5:21 PM, Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov> wrote:

All – the reporter is pinging – any way we can get an answer for the first question? Does this website explain it? <https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations/chromium-drinking-water>

Question: Does EPA have an allowable limit for hexavalent chromium? Is 2,231 ug/L exceptionally high?

Rachel Bassler
Press Officer
U.S. EPA Region 5
bassler.rachel@epa.gov
p: 312-886-7159
c: 312-914-3393

From: Maraldo, Dean
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 3:59 PM
To: Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>
Cc: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Bair, Rita <bair.rita@epa.gov>; Bahr, Ryan <bahr.ryan@epa.gov>; Kuefler, Patrick <kuefler.patrick@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Northwest Indiana Times Question

Rachel: re question 1 - I believe there is a national drinking water standard for total chromium of 100 ppb. I don't believe there is a hex chromium standard. So, yes, 2,231 ug/L would exceed the primary standard for drinking water. I'll defer to our drinking water program (Tom or Rita?)

Question 2: I am not aware of any EPA enforcement at this facility. At least not for NPDES-related violations. State issued informal enforcement actions back in 2012-13. I'm cc'ing Ryan and Pat to see if they have any memory of NPDES enforcement at US Steel in Portage.

From: Bassler, Rachel
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 3:34 PM
To: Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Northwest Indiana Times Question

Hi Dean,

For the second question, is there a database we can point the reporter to?

Thanks,
Rachel

Rachel Bassler
Press Officer
U.S. EPA Region 5
bassler.rachel@epa.gov
p: 312-886-7159
c: 312-914-3393

From: Ribordy, Michael
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 3:30 PM
To: Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>
Cc: Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Northwest Indiana Times Question

Rachel,
Talk with Dean Maraldo in Water. He should at least be able to help with question 1 and probably 2.

From: Bassler, Rachel
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 2:30 PM
To: Ribordy, Michael <ribordy.mike@epa.gov>
Subject: Northwest Indiana Times Question

Hi Mike,

Do you know who the best person to answer these questions would be?

Does EPA have an allowable limit for hexavalent chromium? Is 2,231 ug/L exceptionally high?

Has the EPA conducted any enforcement activities in the past for U.S. Steel conducted controlled spills? I was told EPA ordered U.S. Steel to stop at some point. Can you point me to documents on EPA's website relating to this?

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Kuefler, Patrick

From: Bair, Rita
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2017 4:18 PM
To: Bassler, Rachel; Poy, Thomas
Cc: Maraldo, Dean; Bahr, Ryan; Kuefler, Patrick; Kelley, Jeff; Korleski, Christopher; Rowan, Anne
Subject: RE: Northwest Indiana Times Question - chemical spill

FYI – I reached out to HQ to find out about the 2011 guidance. Below is Eric Burneson's response. That guidance has been superseded.

From: Burneson, Eric
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2017 4:04 PM
To: Bair, Rita <bair.rita@epa.gov>
Cc: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Huff, Lisa <Huff.Lisa@epa.gov>; Carroll, Gregory <Carroll.Gregory@epa.gov>; Hautman, Dan <Hautman.Dan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Hexavalent Chromium Info on EPA's

Rita:

The documents attached to the 2011 email have been superceded. Those recommendations were removed from our website when EPA required monitoring for Hexavalent Chromium as part of the UCMR 3.

See

<https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations/chromium-drinking-water> and
<https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/third-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>.

Eric Burneson, P.E.
Director of Standards and Risk Management
Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
202 564 5250

From: Bair, Rita
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2017 1:53 PM
To: Burneson, Eric <Burneson.Eric@epa.gov>
Cc: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Hexavalent Chromium Info on EPA's

Eric, Can you confirm whether the with OGWDW still supports the Chromium 6 guidance from 2011?

From: Bassler, Rachel

Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 11:58 AM

To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>

Cc: Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>; Bair, Rita <bair.rita@epa.gov>; Bahr, Ryan <bahr.ryan@epa.gov>; Kuefler, Patrick <kuefler.patrick@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; Rowan, Anne <rowan.anne@epa.gov>

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+ Anne, yet another reporter asking about this.

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Rachel Bassler

Press Officer

U.S. EPA Region 5

bassler.rachel@epa.gov

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To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>

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Statement on Hexavalent Chromium at U.S. Steel chemical spill

EPA has a national drinking water standard for total chromium of 100 parts per billion. The maximum contaminant level for total chromium includes both trivalent chromium and hexavalent chromium of 100 ug/L or 100 parts per billion.

EPA does not have a hexavalent chromium standard; however, EPA is currently evaluating health effects data to determine a hexavalent chromium maximum contaminant level is needed.

Preliminary data suggests that hexavalent chromium from the spill is not present near drinking water intakes.

For additional information on chromium drinking water standards, please visit our website:

<https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations/chromium-drinking-water>

5

Rachel Bassler
Press Officer
U.S. EPA Region 5
bassler.rachel@epa.gov
p: 312-886-7159
c: 312-914-3393

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 6:51 PM
To: Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>
Cc: Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>; Bair, Rita <bair.rita@epa.gov>; Bahr, Ryan <bahr.ryan@epa.gov>; Kuefler, Patrick <kuefler.patrick@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Northwest Indiana Times Question - chemical spill

Dean is correct. There is an MCL for Total Chromium, which includes both Trivalent Chromium and Hexavalent Chromium, of 100 ug/L or 100 ppb. Trivalent Chromium and Hexavalent Chromium readily convert to one another. There is no MCL for Hexavalent Chromium. EPA is evaluating the health effects data to determine whether the Total Chromium MCL needs to be modified or a Hexavalent Chromium MCL is needed.

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

On Apr 13, 2017, at 5:21 PM, Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov> wrote:

All – the reporter is ping – any way we can get an answer for the first question? Does this website explain it? <https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations/chromium-drinking-water>

Question: Does EPA have an allowable limit for hexavalent chromium? Is 2,231 ug/L exceptionally high?

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Subject: RE: Northwest Indiana Times Question

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Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 3:34 PM
To: Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Northwest Indiana Times Question

Hi Dean,

For the second question, is there a database we can point the reporter to?

Thanks,
Rachel

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Subject: RE: Northwest Indiana Times Question

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To: Ribordy, Michael <ribordy.mike@epa.gov>
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Hi Mike,

Do you know who the best person to answer these questions would be?

Does EPA have an allowable limit for hexavalent chromium? Is 2,231 ug/L exceptionally high?

Has the EPA conducted any enforcement activities in the past for U.S. Steel conducted controlled spills? I was told EPA ordered U.S. Steel to stop at some point. Can you point me to documents on EPA's website relating to this?

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Maraldo, Dean

From: Maguire, Andrew
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 12:15 PM
To: Borries, Samuel; Mendez, Thomas
Cc: Ribordy, Michael; Maraldo, Dean; Poy, Thomas; Clark, Jacqueline; Kyte, Larry; Ballotti, Doug; Guerriero, Margaret; Kelley, Jeff; Bassler, Rachel; Deamer, Eileen; El-Zein, Jason
Subject: RE: US Steel CR+6 spill
Attachments: 17040415(TetraTech)Rev0_Preliminary.pdf

All,

We've received our first set of data from the lab. Attached is the lab report but I'll summarize:

Samples taken by EPA on 4/12/17 in Burns Waterway and Lake Michigan, including Indiana American Water's Ogden Dunes intake, does not indicate any hexavalent chromium impacts to either waterway. All results were below the Method Detection Limit of 1 parts per billion.

We're still awaiting beach samples and results for total

Andy Maguire
U.S. EPA - Region 5
312-353-8782

From: Borries, Samuel
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 10:13 AM
To: Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Cc: Ribordy, Michael <ribordy.mike@epa.gov>; Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Clark, Jacqueline <clark.jacqueline@epa.gov>; Kyte, Larry <kyte.larry@epa.gov>; Ballotti, Doug <ballotti.douglas@epa.gov>; Guerriero, Margaret <guerriero.margaret@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>; Deamer, Eileen <deamer.eileen@epa.gov>; El-Zein, Jason <el-zein.jason@epa.gov>
Subject: US Steel CR+6 spill

Andy,

To follow up on our conversation please request from US Steel a validated data package that we can review to confirm their data results while we await the EPA lab data. I would not restart the treatment plant unless we can confirm the validity of US Steel data results or we receive the EPA sample results showing the waterway/lake is free of impact. Please work with Water Division in this review of data and startup schedule. If needed please reach out to Jackie Clark for ORCs advice in requesting the information and possibly delaying a planned startup. Call me if you have any questions.

Sam.

5

Maraldo, Dean

From: Kuefler, Patrick
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 11:16 AM
To: Korleski, Christopher; Poy, Thomas
Cc: Klassman, Debra; Bahr, Ryan; Maraldo, Dean; Henry, Timothy; Pierard, Kevin; Ireland, Scott; Bauer, Candice; Henry, Timothy; Vantil, Barbara
Subject: US steel discharge, anticipated plant start up today - action needed

I talked with Tom Mendez an OSC onsite. He said the facility was going to be starting up today and discharging. He asked if there were any additional discharge monitoring that we wanted. The discharge point permit requires 5 days of sampling per week with a 24 hour composite. They are going to 7 days per week now. I asked him to have them do both Cr6 and total chromium analysis. The chromium material that got in system was material (not waste that might have picked up other contaminants) and according to the MSDS did not contain other toxics. Also to let us know if they are to remove any sludge from the WWTP. I told him that I would keep EC500 on if he had any questions. Besides the frequency and the chromium analysis, they are monitoring for their permitted parameters.

He would like someone from DW to call him today and have someone available today to answer any DW questions that might come up. Tom Mendez cell is 312 415-1999

Patrick F. Kuefler
Chief
Water Enforcement &
Compliance Assurance Branch

312 353-6268 Office
312 805 7952 Mobile

5

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Subject: RE: US Steel CR+6 spill

Request submitted and we are expecting first EPA Hex Chrome results within the hour. Will share as soon as I get it. Will share USS statement when I receive it as well, should be soon.

Andy Maguire
U.S. EPA - Region 5
312-353-8782

From: Borries, Samuel
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 10:13 AM
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Cc: Ribordy, Michael <ribordy.mike@epa.gov>; Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Clark, Jacqueline <clark.jacqueline@epa.gov>; Kyte, Larry <kyte.larry@epa.gov>; Ballotti, Doug <ballotti.douglas@epa.gov>; Guerriero, Margaret <guerriero.margaret@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>; Deamer, Eileen <deamer.eileen@epa.gov>; El-Zein, Jason <el-zein.jason@epa.gov>
Subject: US Steel CR+6 spill

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Sam.

Maraldo, Dean

From: Mendez, Thomas
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 8:40 AM
To: Maraldo, Dean; Mendez, Thomas
Subject: Startup plan Us Steel
Attachments: IMG_0016.JPG; ATT00001.txt

Fyi

5

John

Midwest Plant Startup and Operating plan

1. Startup sequence:

- a. 10:00 Friday
 - i. Pickle Line
 - ii. Recoilers
- b. 10:30 Friday
 - i. 80" 5 Stand
 - ii. 52" 5 Stand
 - iii. Double Cold Reduction Mill
 - iv. Tin Mill Temper Mill
- c. 11:00 Friday
 - i. CA
- d. 11:30 Friday
 - i. Cleaner Line
- e. 12:00 Friday
 - i. Any other scheduled units
- f. Saturday
 - i. GACT
 - ii. Tin Line
- g. Sunday
 - i. No. 3 Galvanizing Line
- h. Monday
 - i. Chrome Line

Iron, oil + grease,

2. Enhanced Compliance Monitoring Actions

- a. Chrome Rinse Wastewater Pipe – visual inspection every 4 hours
- b. Equalization Basin influent – hex chrome every 2 hours
- c. East Sedimentation Basin weir – hex chrome every 2 hours
- d. Final Treatment Plant and Chrome Plant effluent – Expand permit required total chrome 24-hour composite sampling from 5 days/week to 7 days/week
- e. All samples will be analyzed by ALS Lab in Valparaiso to ensure accuracy. Hexavalent chrome results should be available within 3 hours.
- f. If hexavalent chrome is detected, the Tin and Chrome Lines will shut down
- g. Enhanced monitoring will continue at least until public beaches and water intakes are opened

Maraldo, Dean

From: Mendez, Thomas
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 12:08 PM
To: Borries, Samuel; El-Zein, Jason; Brown, Jaime; Ribordy, Michael; Mankowski, Matthew; Augustyn, James; Kelley, Jeff; Bassler, Rachel; Deamer, Eileen; dgreinke@idem.IN.gov
Cc: Eoc, Epahq; Behnke, Kristina; Beslow, Mike; Maguire, Andrew; Thomas, Craig; Lippert, Jeffrey; Cashmere, Jason; Goeks, Todd; Johnson, Mark; Karecki, Edward; Rowan, Anne; Reshkin, Karen; Maraldo, Dean; Donnelly, Peggy; Poy, Thomas; Henry, Timothy; Korleski, Christopher
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Update as of: 4/13/17 at 12:00 CST

Overview: Stakeholders convened for a morning meeting to discuss the ongoing response at US Steel regarding the release of hexavalent chrome. Stakeholders present included USEPA, US Steel, IDEM, National Park Service and Indiana American Water, Portage Police and a representatives for the beaches of City of Portage. Sampling continued for a third day on 4/13/17.

- Sampling Data
 - Data has been coming in from earlier sampling events.
 - Quality control is being performed on the data and it will be shared with relevant stakeholders as soon as it has gone through QA/QC.
- Current Sampling
 - A larger boat was secured for sampling today and all non-wading water samples will be taken from this one boat.
 - Shoreline and wading level sediment and water samples will be completed

EPA, State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action:

- Indiana American Water
 - Indiana American Water will continue to have their water intake closed and has indicated that it will not be reopened until at least Monday. They have requested sampling to continue and are looking for three consecutive days of non-detect.
- National Park Service
 - National Park Service will continue to have their beaches closed until sampling data can show that no contamination is present. Sampling at their beaches continues.

NEWS Coverage:

<http://www.abc57.com/clip/13245309/epa-responds-to-chemical-spill-that-close-parts-of-lake-michigan>



EPA responds to chemical spill that close parts of Lake Michigan

ABC57 produces 44.5 hours of live, local news and weather.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672

Thomas Mendez
Emergency Response Branch
On Scene Coordinator
U.S. EPA Region 5
77 W Jackson Blvd (SE-5J)
Chicago, Illinois 60604
312-353-8242

5

Kuefler, Patrick

From: Bassler, Rachel
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 5:21 PM
To: Maraldo, Dean
Cc: Poy, Thomas; Bair, Rita; Bahr, Ryan; Kuefler, Patrick; Kelley, Jeff; Korleski, Christopher
Subject: RE: Northwest Indiana Times Question - chemical spill

All – the reporter is pinging – any way we can get an answer for the first question? Does this website explain it?
<https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations/chromium-drinking-water>

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Subject: RE: Northwest Indiana Times Question

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Maraldo, Dean

From: Mendez, Thomas
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 10:31 AM
To: Maraldo, Dean
Subject: Fwd: US Steel Photos

-Tom
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Mendez, Thomas" <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
To: "joseph_magers@nps.gov" <joseph_magers@nps.gov>
Subject: US Steel Photos

Thomas Mendez
Emergency Response Branch
On Scene Coordinator
U.S. EPA Region 5
77 W Jackson Blvd (SE-5J)
Chicago, Illinois 60604
312-353-8242

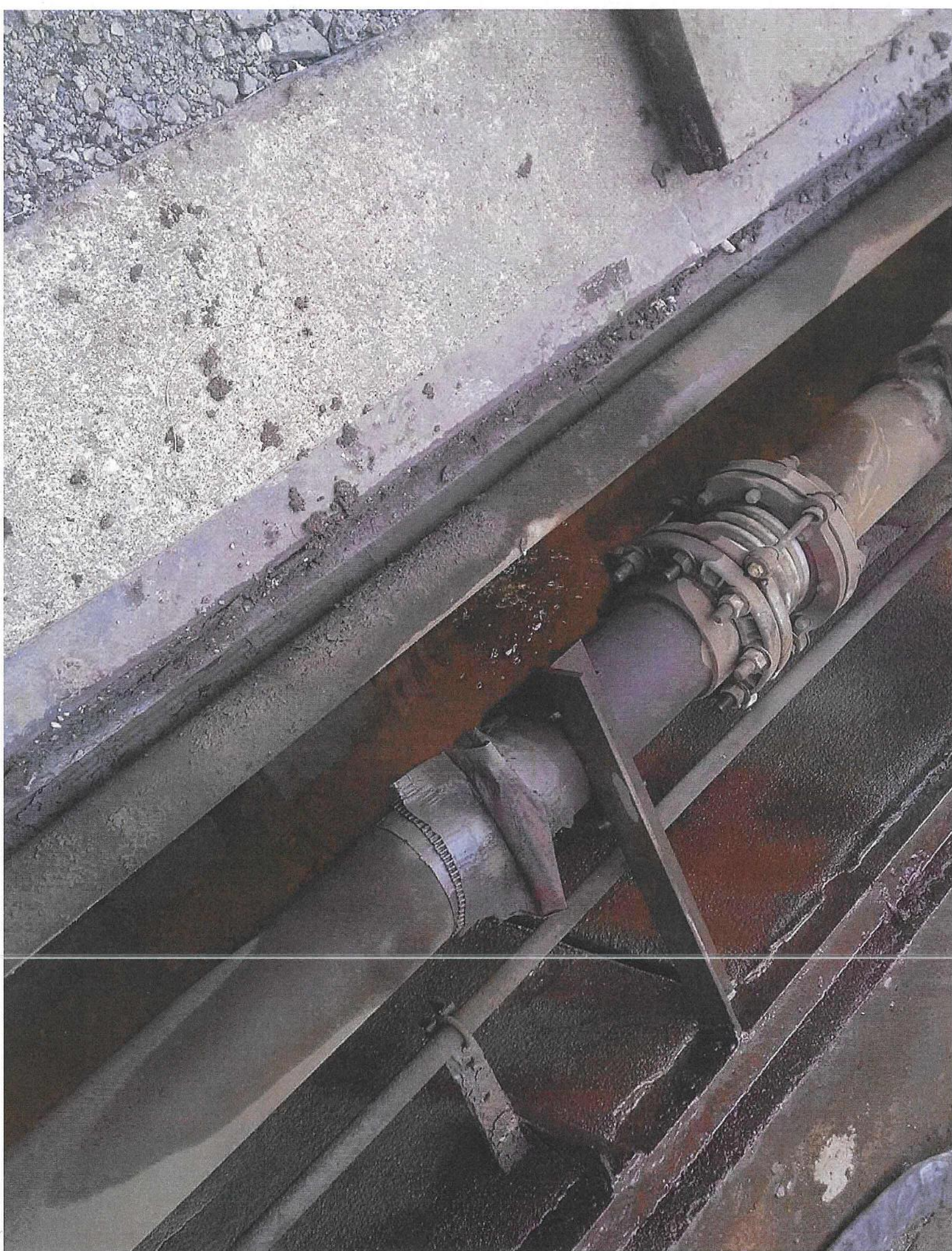
****Please note as of 01/06/2017: I will no longer be with the Water Division of EPA Region 5 and have taken a position with EPA Region 5 Superfund. For all water related questions please contact my previous supervisor vantil.barbara@epa.gov****

Confidential: This transmission may contain deliberative, attorney-client, attorney work product or otherwise privileged material. Do not release under FOIA without appropriate review. If this message has been received by you in error, you are instructed to delete this message, together with any attachments, from your computer and all storage media, whether electronic or hard copy.











Maraldo, Dean

From: Mendez, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 7:05 PM
To: Borries, Samuel; El-Zein, Jason; Brown, Jaime; Ribordy, Michael; Mankowski, Matthew; Augustyn, James; Kelley, Jeff; Bassler, Rachel; Deamer, Eileen; dgreinke@idem.IN.gov
Cc: Eoc, Epahq; Behnke, Kristina; Beslow, Mike; Maguire, Andrew; Thomas, Craig; Lippert, Jeffrey; Cashmere, Jason; Goeks, Todd; Johnson, Mark; Karécki, Edward; Rowan, Anne; Reshkin, Karen; Maraldo, Dean; Donnelly, Peggy; Poy, Thomas
Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN
Attachments: IMG_3495.jpg

Update as of: 4/12/17 at 17:30 CST

Overview: Sampling continued for a second day on 4/12/17. Stakeholders convened for an end of day meeting to discuss the ongoing response at US Steel regarding the release of hexavalent chrome. Stakeholders present included USEPA, US Steel, IDEM, National Park Service and Indiana American Water, Portage Police and a representatives for the beaches of City of Portage.

EPA representatives were available to the press for a briefing at approximately 15:30 on 4/12/17 and answered inquiries regarding the response effort.

- Sampling data has been coming in from 4/11/17 sampling events.
 - Some residual chrome can still be seen in water sampling results
- Additional sampling points have been identified and is ongoing.
 - Some predetermined sampling points were not able to be sampled due to safety concerns on the water and the level of wave action. However corresponding shore sediment samples and wading level water samples were taken.
- US Steel has said based on their compliance composite samplers, they released 138.8 lbs of chrome on April 10th and 206.72 lbs of chrome on 11th.

EPA, State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action:

- Indiana American Water's intake is still currently shut down.
- Continued sampling of Burns Ditch and Lake Michigan will continue tomorrow 4/13/17
- National Park Service beaches are still currently closed.
 - Sediment sampling of the shoreline has started and will correspond with water samples north in Lake Michigan

NEWS Coverage:

<http://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/Chemical-Spill-Forces-Closure-of-Indiana-Dunes-Beaches-419279844.html>

<http://www.fox32chicago.com/news/local/248120304-story>

<http://abc7chicago.com/news/us-steel-reports-chemical-spill-in-portage-canal/1862338/>

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672

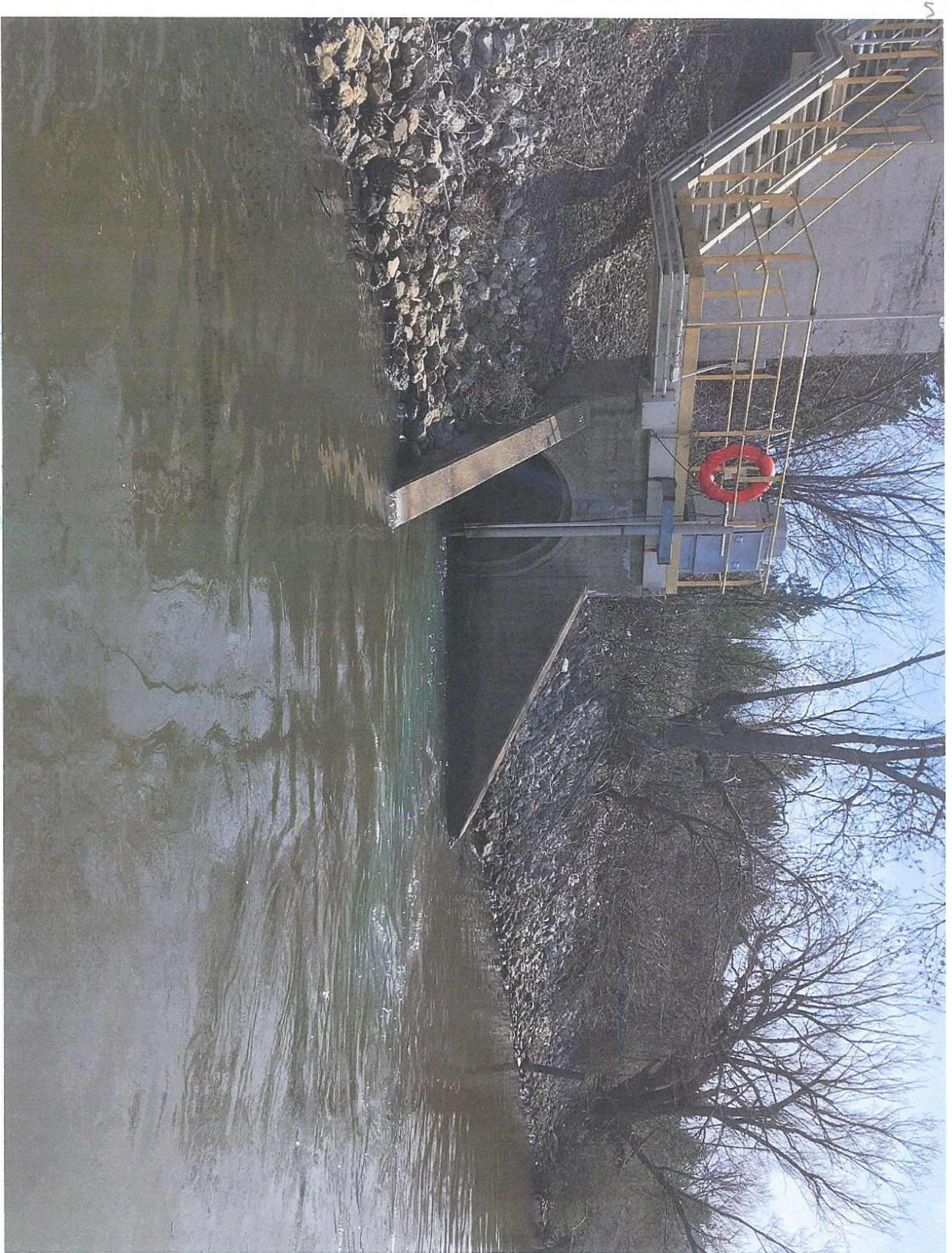
Thomas Mendez

Emergency Response Branch
On Scene Coordinator

U.S. EPA Region 5
77 W Jackson Blvd (SE-5J)
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Cc: Behnke, Kristina; Beslow, Mike; Maguire, Andrew; Thomas, Craig; Lippert, Jeffrey; Cashmere, Jason; Goeks, Todd; Johnson, Mark; Karecki, Edward; Rowan, Anne; Reshkin, Karen; Maraldo, Dean; Donnelly, Peggy; Poy, Thomas
Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN - 4/12/17 AM update
Attachments: IMG_0104.jpg; 2.jpg; 1.jpg

Update as of: 4/12/17 at 10:30 CST

Overview: On 4/12/17 at approximately 9:00 CST, Stakeholders convened to discuss the ongoing response at US Steel regarding the release of hexavalent chrome. Stakeholders present included USEPA, US Steel, IDEM, National Park Service and Indiana American Water, Portage Police and a representatives for the beaches of City of Portage.

- US Steel has alleged that the source of the active release has been stopped.
- Active residual can still be seen in water sampling.
- Levels of chrome at the outfall were as high as 2231 ug/L overnight.

EPA, State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action:

- Indiana American Water's intake is still currently shut down.
 - Sampling results of water intake is showing samples slightly above the detection limit but were rerun for confirmation and found to be at or below the limit. Additional sampling is going to be performed.
- Sampling has started inside Burns Ditch this morning
 - Sampling will duplicate the spots sampled on 4/11/17 as well as adding a mid-water depth sample taken with tubing attached to a pump on the boat.
- National Park Service has currently closed numerous beaches both east and west of Burns Ditch.
 - National Park Service's regional offices have suggested that they will not reopen the beaches without this additional sampling with includes a shore sediment sample.
 - EPA with National Park Service have identified additional sampling locations both east and west of Burns Ditch along the lakeshore where both water and sediment samples will be taken.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672

Maraldo, Dean

From: Maraldo, Dean
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 7:15 AM
To: Patrick Kuefler; Ryan Bahr
Cc: Lenell, Brian; Jurevis, John
Subject: FW: Region 5 ER Notification #2 (Final): U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Fyi...

From: Behnke, Kristina
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 8:25 PM
To: R5 ER Notification List <R5_ER_Notification_List@epa.gov>
Cc: Beslow, Mike <beslow.mike@epa.gov>; Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>; Thomas, Craig <thomas.craig@epa.gov>; Lippert, Jeffrey <lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Cashmere, Jason <cashmere.jason@epa.gov>; Goeks, Todd <goeks.todd@epa.gov>; Johnson, Mark <johnson.mark@epa.gov>; Karecki, Edward <karecki.edward@epa.gov>
Subject: Region 5 ER Notification #2 (Final): U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Region 5 ER Notification #2 (Final): U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN (NRC# 1175399)

Report as of: 4/11/17 at 1930 CST

Overview: On 4/11/17 at approximately 9:30 CST, U.S Steel Corporation discovered a green discoloration in the water near an outfall at their facility in Portage, IN, discharging into Burns Waterway (aka Burns Ditch). U.S. Steel reported this to the National Response Center (NRC #1175399). Two EPA OSCs were nearby at another facility went to the site to investigate.

Upon arriving at the scene, OSCs Beslow and Mendez met with U.S Steel's environmental manager and were told that the facility had determined the material was hexavalent chrome.

The investigation into the cause and volume released is still underway. At this time, it appears that hexavalent chrome waste reached the regular treatment plant on site, rather than the chrome treatment plant. At this time, the release is still ongoing at the outfall. The plant side source of the spill has been secured, with the release at the outfall expected to stop soon.

State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action: The USCG, IDEM, National Park Service and Indiana American Water were on scene. EPA notified local water intakes in Gary, East Chicago, and Ogden Dunes. Indiana American Water in Ogden Dunes shut down their intake earlier today. The intake is still shut down at this time, with water reserves struggling. NOAA has provided an ecological risk number and ATSDR has provided a human health number. Out of precaution, the National Park Service has shut down the nearby lakefront and beaches.

EPA Actions: EPA OSCs Maguire, Behnke, and Mendez are on site. A set of samples were collected before dark. EPA and START assisted with taking samples. Samples were taken upstream of the outfall, at the outfall, and downstream of the outfall. Two samples were also taken at the nearby Indiana American Water intake and wet well. A subset of samples, including the samples taken at the water intake, were sent to an on-site lab for rapid turnaround. The highest concentration of in the samples was detected at the outfall was 949 ppb. The samples taken at the American Water intake and wet well were non-detects for total chromium. The rest of the samples will be sent off to a lab in Valparaiso later tonight to be run for hexavalent chromium. Overnight,

5
samples will be taken at the outfall every 2 hours and another full round of samples will be taken tomorrow morning.

Media Interest: There has been significant media interest, and the National Park Service has issued a press release closing two beaches at the Indiana Dunes National Seashore.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672

This will be the final ER Notification, further updates will be provided by POLREPs.

Kristina Behnke

On-Scene Coordinator

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

77 W. Jackson Blvd. (SE-5J)

Chicago, IL 60604

Office: (312) 353-1057

Fax: (312) 692-2406

Cell: (312) 237-5685

Behnke.Kristina@epa.gov

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Kuefler, Patrick

From: Bahr, Ryan
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 8:19 AM
To: Poy, Thomas
Cc: Kuefler, Patrick
Subject: FW: Region 5 ER Notification #2 (Final): U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

See info on drinking water . . .

From: Maraldo, Dean
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 7:15 AM
To: Kuefler, Patrick <kuefler.patrick@epa.gov>; Bahr, Ryan <bahr.ryan@epa.gov>
Cc: Lenell, Brian <lenell.brian@epa.gov>; Jurevis, John <Jurevis.John@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Region 5 ER Notification #2 (Final): U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

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Subject: Region 5 ER Notification #2 (Final): U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Region 5 ER Notification #2 (Final): U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN (NRC# 1175399)

Report as of: 4/11/17 at 1930 CST

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has provided a human health number. Out of precaution, the National Park Service has shut down the nearby lakefront and beaches.

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Media Interest: There has been significant media interest, and the National Park Service has issued a press release closing two beaches at the Indiana Dunes National Seashore.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672

This will be the final ER Notification, further updates will be provided by POLREPs.

Kristina Behnke

On-Scene Coordinator

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

77 W. Jackson Blvd. (SE-5J)

Chicago, IL 60604

Office: (312) 353-1057

Fax: (312) 692-2406

Cell: (312) 237-5685

Behnke.Kristina@epa.gov

5

Kuefler, Patrick

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Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 7:15 AM
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Cc: Lenell, Brian; Jurevis, John
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Cc: Beslow, Mike <beslow.mike@epa.gov>; Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>; Thomas, Craig <thomas.craig@epa.gov>; Lippert, Jeffrey <lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Cashmere, Jason <cashmere.jason@epa.gov>; Goeks, Todd <goeks.todd@epa.gov>; Johnson, Mark <johnson.mark@epa.gov>; Karecki, Edward <karecki.edward@epa.gov>
Subject: Region 5 ER Notification #2 (Final): U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Region 5 ER Notification #2 (Final): U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN (NRC# 1175399)

Report as of: 4/11/17 at 1930 CST

Overview: On 4/11/17 at approximately 9:30 CST, U.S Steel Corporation discovered a green discoloration in the water near an outfall at their facility in Portage, IN, discharging into Burns Waterway (aka Burns Ditch). U.S. Steel reported this to the National Response Center (NRC #1175399). Two EPA OSCs were nearby at another facility went to the site to investigate.

Upon arriving at the scene, OSCs Beslow and Mendez met with U.S Steel's environmental manager and were told that the facility had determined the material was hexavalent chrome.

The investigation into the cause and volume released is still underway. At this time, it appears that hexavalent chrome waste reached the regular treatment plant on site, rather than the chrome treatment plant. At this time, the release is still ongoing at the outfall. The plant side source of the spill has been secured, with the release at the outfall expected to stop soon.

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EPA Actions: EPA OSCs Maguire, Behnke, and Mendez are on site. A set of samples were collected before dark. EPA and START assisted with taking samples. Samples were taken upstream of the outfall, at the outfall, and downstream of the outfall. Two samples were also taken at the nearby Indiana American Water intake and wet well. A subset of samples, including the samples taken at the water intake, were sent to an on-site lab for rapid turnaround. The highest concentration of in the samples was detected at the outfall was 949 ppb. The samples taken at the American Water intake and wet well were non-detects for total chromium. The rest of the

5
samples will be sent off to a lab in Valparaiso later tonight to be run for hexavalent chromium. Overnight, samples will be taken at the outfall every 2 hours and another full round of samples will be taken tomorrow morning.

Media Interest: There has been significant media interest, and the National Park Service has issued a press release closing two beaches at the Indiana Dunes National Seashore.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672

This will be the final ER Notification, further updates will be provided by POLREPs.

Kristina Behnke
On-Scene Coordinator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
77 W. Jackson Blvd. (SE-5J)
Chicago, IL 60604
Office: (312) 353-1057
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Behnke.Kristina@epa.gov

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Maraldo, Dean

From: Mendez, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 1:54 PM
To: Maraldo, Dean
Subject: FW: Midwest Plant Incident

From: Maguire, Andrew
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 1:52 PM
To: Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Midwest Plant Incident

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Joseph E Hanning <JEHanning@uss.com>
Date: April 12, 2017 at 10:46:04 CDT
To: <Maguire.andrew@epa.gov>
Cc: <Kenya.johnson@amwater.com>, <dgreinke@idem.in.gov>, <mike.teeling@ogdendunes.in.gov>
Subject: Midwest Plant Incident

Andrew,

Per your request, U. S. Steel is providing a summary of the incident. This is not a press release.

At the U. S. Steel Midwest Plant on Tuesday April 11, there was a release of process waste water from the Tin and Tin Free electroplating lines. The waste water is from the process used to treat the steel strip after electroplating, and the rinse water from this process is conveyed via pipe to a dedicated treatment plant. The preliminary investigation revealed that an expansion joint in the rinse water pipe failed and resulted in the water being released to a different wastewater treatment plant and ultimately Burns Waterway through an outfall. Upon detection of the release, notifications were made to the IDEM, the NRC, Coast Guard, and the Porter County Sherriff; all production processes were shut down; and additional steps to mitigate the impact are being taken. These steps include the isolation and repair of the damaged pipe, recovery of material, and the addition of a water treatment compound, sodium trithiocarbonate (CNa2S3), to the waste water treatment plant to convert and aid in the removal of hexavalent chromium. U. S. Steel continues to work with the various governmental agencies and utilities involved to monitor and resolve the issue.

Joseph E. Hanning, P.E.
Director - Environmental Control
Gary, Midwest, East Chicago Tin
United States Steel Corporation
Office: (219) 888-4500
Cell: (412) 952-0474

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Maraldo, Dean

From: Bahr, Ryan
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 5:07 PM
To: Maraldo, Dean
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Not sure if I sent this to you yet.

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 2:42 PM
To: Mary Hollingsworth <MHolling@idem.IN.gov>; Dave McMillan <dave.mcmillan@illinois.gov>; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Cc: Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; Henry, Timothy <henry.timothy@epa.gov>; Bahr, Ryan <bahr.ryan@epa.gov>; Kuefler, Patrick <kuefler.patrick@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

FYI...The release started this morning but still no estimate of volume yet.

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Thomas, Craig
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:46 PM
To: R5 ER Notification List <R5_ER_Notification_List@epa.gov>
Cc: Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Beslow, Mike <beslow.mike@epa.gov>; Lippert, Jeffrey <lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Behnke, Kristina <behnke.kristina@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

ER Notification #1 (Initial) – U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Region 5 ER Notification #1 (Initial): NRC# 1175399, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Report as of: 09/23/16 at 13:45 CDT

Overview: On 4/11/17 at approximately 09:30 central time, U.S Steel Corporation discovered a green discoloration in the water near an outfall at their facility in Portage, IN, discharging into Burns Waterway (aka Burns Ditch). U.S. Steel reported this to the National Response Center (NRC #1175399). OSC Thomas contacted the reporting party regarding this incident, and was told the facility was conducting an investigation to determine what it was. OSC Thomas then contacted OSCs Beslow and Mendez, who were nearby, to investigate as well.

Upon arriving at the scene, OSCs Beslow and Mendez met with U.S Steel's environmental manager and were told that the facility had determined the material was hexavalent chrome. This information was immediately shared with United States Coast Guard personnel, who were also responding.

State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action: The USCG, and IDEM have arrived on scene. EPA has notified local water intakes in Gary, East Chicago, and Ogden Dunes. Indiana American Water in Ogden Dunes has shut down their water intake and has approximately 4 hours of reserves.

EPA has also notified U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service.

EPA Actions: EPA OSC Andy Maguire and START are mobilizing to the scene to conduct water sampling. Investigations are under way to determine how the hexavalent chrome released, the amount of hexavalent chrome released and the extent of the release into the waterway.

The facility has minimized the amount of water it is using to essential systems only to reduce through put.

Media Interest: No media interest at this time.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672



Craig Thomas
US EPA Region 5 On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Branch
77 W. Jackson Blvd., SE-5J
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-5907 office
312-802-9637 cell



Maraldo, Dean

From: Bahr, Ryan
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 2:55 PM
To: Maraldo, Dean
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

From: Kuefler, Patrick
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 2:53 PM
To: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>
Cc: Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; Henry, Timothy <henry.timothy@epa.gov>; Bahr, Ryan <bahr.ryan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

We asked the OSCs to take samples. They haven't confirmed that they will be able to do so yet but one of the OSCs is a former NPDES inspector. We are planning to inspect tomorrow. We have let IDEM know. Their compliance manager Mark Stanifer was unaware of the situation until a few minutes ago. They don't have any inspectors that can get there today either.

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 2:47 PM
To: Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>
Cc: Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; Henry, Timothy <henry.timothy@epa.gov>; Kuefler, Patrick <kuefler.patrick@epa.gov>; Bahr, Ryan <bahr.ryan@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Sam: FYI...Chicago will be doing some Cr+6 sampling at their Southwest Plant crib and will take their boat out to do some Lake Michigan sampling, as they did during the BP Whiting event in 2014.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 2:19 PM
To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Cc: Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.O'Malley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Dave and Tom

Per our discussion, NOAA currents showing counter clockwise current in Lake Michigan and winds out of the west. For precaution we will sample for Cr6+ at SWPP Crib hourly once we get the sample bottles from the lab. Tomorrow, out of an abundance of caution, we will do a grid sampling of Lake Michigan, quarter mile off shore near Gary Indiana for Cr6+. Any questions please call me anytime 312-617-4233.

Thanks
Alan

From: McMillan, Dave [<mailto:DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:53 PM
To: Stark, Alan
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Additional information per our discussion.

From: Lauder, Roger
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:50 PM
To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Cook, David <DAVID.COOK@Illinois.gov>
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

FYI

From: Borries, Samuel [<mailto:borries.samuel@epa.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:48 PM
To: Lauder, Roger
Cc: El-Zein, Jason
Subject: [External] FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Roger,
Here is the ER notification report with the current information.

From: Thomas, Craig
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:46 PM
To: R5 ER Notification List <R5_ER_Notification_List@epa.gov>
Cc: Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Beslow, Mike <beslow.mike@epa.gov>; Lippert, Jeffrey <lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Behnke, Kristina <behnke.kristina@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

ER Notification #1 (Initial) – U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Region 5 ER Notification #1 (Initial): NRC# 1175399, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Report as of: 09/23/16 at 13:45 CDT

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Upon arriving at the scene, OSCs Beslow and Mendez met with U.S Steel's environmental manager and were told that the facility had determined the material was hexavalent chrome. This information was immediately shared with United States Coast Guard personnel, who were also responding.

State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action: The USCG, and IDEM have arrived on scene. EPA has notified local water intakes in Gary, East Chicago, and Ogden Dunes. Indiana American Water in Ogden Dunes has shut down their water intake and has approximately 4 hours of reserves.

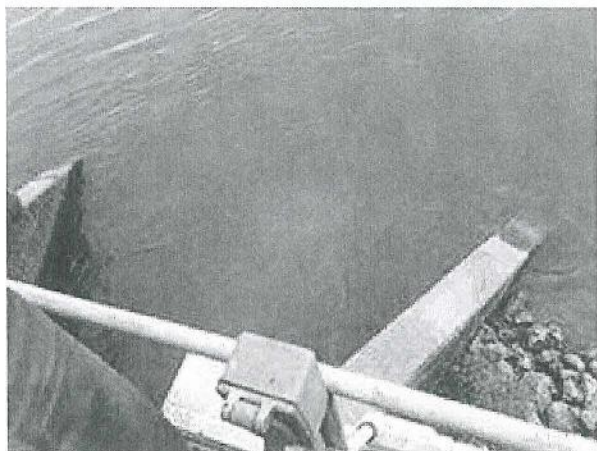
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Media Interest: No media interest at this time.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672



Craig Thomas
US EPA Region 5 On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Branch
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Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-5907 office
312-802-9637 cell



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Maraldo, Dean

From: Donnelly, Peggy
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 12:54 PM
To: Korleski, Christopher; Henry, Timothy; Poy, Thomas; Deltoral, Miguel; Opie, Jodie; Brown, Alicia
Cc: Maraldo, Dean
Subject: Call from IN American Water re US Steel release in Portage (Cr+6)

Hi folks –

Just want you to know I received a call a few minutes ago from one of our Urban Waters partners at IN American Water in NW Indiana (Pete). He just heard about a release from US Steel today, and wondered if they need to shut down their drinking water intake at Ogden Dunes. I immediately got in touch with Superfund and the OSC's on scene now (Mike Bezlow and Tom Mendez), and they will be calling him back. In the meantime, I also called Pete back to let him know the OSC's would be in contact, and I shared what little I knew from speaking to Mike and Tom. A pipe at US Steel broke today releasing Chromium +6 into the canal near the confluence with Lake Michigan (I believe by Portage Park Lakefront, part of the IN Dunes National Lakeshore). Pete said he is in the process of shutting down their intake at Ogden Dunes, but this comes at a bad time as they only have 1-2 hours capacity at current use, potentially 3-4 hours. He said if he has to, he can put out calls to industry to ask they shut down processes to use less water, and if worse comes to worse, they can get water from East Chicago. I by no means know all the details – I just made the connection to get IN American Water in touch with the OSC's... but I wanted to let you all know what I know at this point. I'm guessing someone needs to let IDEM (and NPS) know what is happening, but I'll leave that to you experts and those responding, who know the chain of command to make these communications.

If I can help with anything else, let me know. Otherwise, you know everything I know.

Peg Donnelly
U.S. EPA, R5, Water Division
77 W Jackson Blvd
Chicago IL 60604
312.886.6109 office
312.914.4794 cell
donnelly.peggy@epa.gov

5

Korleski, Christopher

From: Korleski, Christopher
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:02 PM
To: Kelley, Jeff
Cc: Henry, Timothy; Poy, Thomas; Donnelly, Peggy; Opie, Jodie; Deltoral, Miguel
Subject: FW: Call from IN American Water re US Steel release in Portage (Cr+6)

J:

A little more intel...

As to the highlighted part, Tom Poy is in the process of reaching out to IDEM and IEPA now.

From: Donnelly, Peggy
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 12:54 PM
To: Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; Henry, Timothy <henry.timothy@epa.gov>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Deltoral, Miguel <deltoral.miguel@epa.gov>; Opie, Jodie <opie.jodie@epa.gov>; Brown, Alicia <brown.alicia@epa.gov>
Cc: Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>
Subject: Call from IN American Water re US Steel release in Portage (Cr+6)

Hi folks --

Just want you to know I received a call a few minutes ago from one of our Urban Waters partners at IN American Water in NW Indiana (Pete). He just heard about a release from US Steel today, and wondered if they need to shut down their drinking water intake at Ogden Dunes. I immediately got in touch with Superfund and the OSC's on scene now (Mike Bezlow and Tom Mendez), and they will be calling him back. In the meantime, I also called Pete back to let him know the OSC's would be in contact, and I shared what little I knew from speaking to Mike and Tom. A pipe at US Steel broke today releasing Chromium +6 into the canal near the confluence with Lake Michigan (I believe by Portage Park Lakefront, part of the IN Dunes National Lakeshore). Pete said he is in the process of shutting down their intake at Ogden Dunes, but this comes at a bad time as they only have 1-2 hours capacity at current use, potentially 3-4 hours. He said if he has to, he can put out calls to industry to ask they shut down processes to use less water, and if worse comes to worse, they can get water from East Chicago. I by no means know all the details -- I just made the connection to get IN American Water in touch with the OSC's... but I wanted to let you all know what I know at this point. I'm guessing someone needs to let IDEM (and NPS) know what is happening, but I'll leave that to you experts and those responding, who know the chain of command to make these communications.

If I can help with anything else, let me know. Otherwise, you know everything I know.

Peg Donnelly
U.S. EPA, R5, Water Division
77 W Jackson Blvd
Chicago IL 60604
312.886.6109 office
312.914.4794 cell
donnelly.peggy@epa.gov

Kuefler, Patrick

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 2:42 PM
To: Mary Hollingsworth; Dave McMillan; feighnerb@michigan.gov
Cc: Korleski, Christopher; Henry, Timothy; Bahr, Ryan; Kuefler, Patrick
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

FYI...The release started this morning but still no estimate of volume yet.

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Thomas, Craig
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:46 PM
To: R5 ER Notification List <R5_ER_Notification_List@epa.gov>
Cc: Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Beslow, Mike <beslow.mike@epa.gov>; Lippert, Jeffrey <lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Behnke, Kristina <behnke.kristina@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

ER Notification #1 (Initial) – U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Region 5 ER Notification #1 (Initial): NRC# 1175399, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Report as of: 09/23/16 at 13:45 CDT

Overview: On 4/11/17 at approximately 09:30 central time, U.S Steel Corporation discovered a green discoloration in the water near an outfall at their facility in Portage, IN, discharging into Burns Waterway (aka Burns Ditch). U.S. Steel reported this to the National Response Center (NRC #1175399). OSC Thomas contacted the reporting party regarding this incident, and was told the facility was conducting an investigation to determine what it was. OSC Thomas then contacted OSCs Beslow and Mendez, who were nearby, to investigate as well.

Upon arriving at the scene, OSCs Beslow and Mendez met with U.S Steel's environmental manager and were told that the facility had determined the material was hexavalent chrome. This information was immediately shared with United States Coast Guard personnel, who were also responding.

State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action: The USCG, and IDEM have arrived on scene. EPA has notified local water intakes in Gary, East Chicago, and Ogden Dunes. Indiana American Water in Ogden Dunes has shut down their water intake and has approximately 4 hours of reserves.

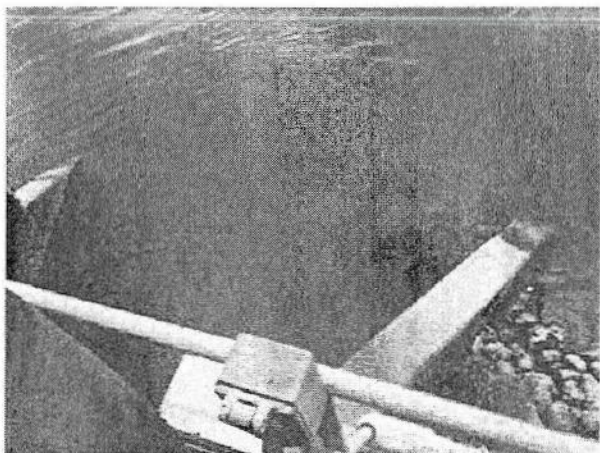
EPA has also notified U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service.

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EPA Actions: EPA OSC Andy Maguire and START are mobilizing to the scene to conduct water sampling. Investigations are under way to determine how the hexavalent chrome released, the amount of hexavalent chrome released and the extent of the release into the waterway.

The facility has minimized the amount of water it is using to essential systems only to reduce through put.

Media Interest: No media interest at this time.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672



Craig Thomas
US EPA Region 5 On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Branch
77 W. Jackson Blvd., SE-5J
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-5907 office
312-802-9637 cell



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Kuefler, Patrick

From: Kuefler, Patrick
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 2:53 PM
To: Poy, Thomas; Borries, Samuel
Cc: Korleski, Christopher; Henry, Timothy; Bahr, Ryan
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Tracking:	Recipient	Read
	Poy, Thomas	Read: 4/11/2017 2:54 PM
	Borries, Samuel	
	Korleski, Christopher	
	Henry, Timothy	Read: 4/11/2017 4:08 PM
	Bahr, Ryan	

We asked the OSCs to take samples. They haven't confirmed that they will be able to do so yet but one of the OSCs is a former NPDES inspector. We are planning to inspect tomorrow. We have let IDEM know. Their compliance manager Mark Stanifer was unaware of the situation until a few minutes ago. They don't have any inspectors that can get there today either.

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 2:47 PM
To: Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>
Cc: Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>; Henry, Timothy <henry.timothy@epa.gov>; Kuefler, Patrick <kuefler.patrick@epa.gov>; Bahr, Ryan <bahr.ryan@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Sam: FYI... Chicago will be doing some Cr+6 sampling at their Southwest Plant crib and will take their boat out to do some Lake Michigan sampling, as they did during the BP Whiting event in 2014.

Tom

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch
USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

From: Stark, Alan [<mailto:Alan.Stark@cityofchicago.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 2:19 PM
To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Cc: Murphy, Barrett <Barrett.Murphy@cityofchicago.org>; Hernandez-Tomlin, Julie <Julie.HernandezTomlin@cityofchicago.org>; Putz, Andrea <Andrea.Putz@cityofchicago.org>; Kelly, Mike <Mike.Kelly@cityofchicago.org>; Schwer, Patrick <Patrick.Schwer@cityofchicago.org>; O'Malley, Mark <Mark.O'Malley@cityofchicago.org>; Salinas, Eduardo <Eduardo.Salinas@cityofchicago.org>; Skiadopoulos, Frank <Frank.Skiadopoulos@cityofchicago.org>; Litherland, Gary <Gary.Litherland@cityofchicago.org>; Caminer, Irene <Irene.Caminer@cityofchicago.org>
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Dave and Tom

Per our discussion, NOAA currents showing counter clockwise current in Lake Michigan and winds out of the west. For precaution we will sample for Cr6+ at SWPP Crib hourly once we get the sample bottles from the lab. Tomorrow, out of an abundance of caution, we will do a grid sampling of Lake Michigan, quarter mile off shore near Gary Indiana for Cr6+. Any questions please call me anytime 312-617-4233.

Thanks
Alan

From: McMillan, Dave [mailto:DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:53 PM
To: Stark, Alan
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Additional information per our discussion.

From: Lauder, Roger
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:50 PM
To: McMillan, Dave <DAVE.MCMILLAN@Illinois.gov>; Cook, David <DAVID.COOK@Illinois.gov>
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

FYI

From: Borries, Samuel [mailto:borries.samuel@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:48 PM
To: Lauder, Roger
Cc: El-Zein, Jason
Subject: [External] FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

Roger,
Here is the ER notification report with the current information.

From: Thomas, Craig
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:46 PM
To: R5 ER Notification List <R5_ER_Notification_List@epa.gov>
Cc: Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Beslow, Mike <beslow.mike@epa.gov>; Lippert, Jeffrey <lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Behnke, Kristina <behnke.kristina@epa.gov>; Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release ER Notification #1 (Initial) Portage, IN

ER Notification #1 (Initial) – U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Region 5 ER Notification #1 (Initial): NRC# 1175399, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Report as of: 09/23/16 at 13:45 CDT

Overview: On 4/11/17 at approximately 09:30 central time, U.S Steel Corporation discovered a green discoloration in the water near an outfall at their facility in Portage, IN, discharging into Burns Waterway (aka Burns Ditch). U.S. Steel reported this to the National Response Center (NRC #1175399). OSC Thomas contacted the reporting party regarding this incident, and was told the facility was conducting an investigation to determine what it was. OSC Thomas then contacted OSCs Beslow and Mendez, who were nearby, to investigate as well.

5

Upon arriving at the scene, OSCs Beslow and Mendez met with U.S Steel's environmental manager and were told that the facility had determined the material was hexavalent chrome. This information was immediately shared with United States Coast Guard personnel, who were also responding.

State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action: The USCG, and IDEM have arrived on scene. EPA has notified local water intakes in Gary, East Chicago, and Ogden Dunes. Indiana American Water in Ogden Dunes has shut down their water intake and has approximately 4 hours of reserves.

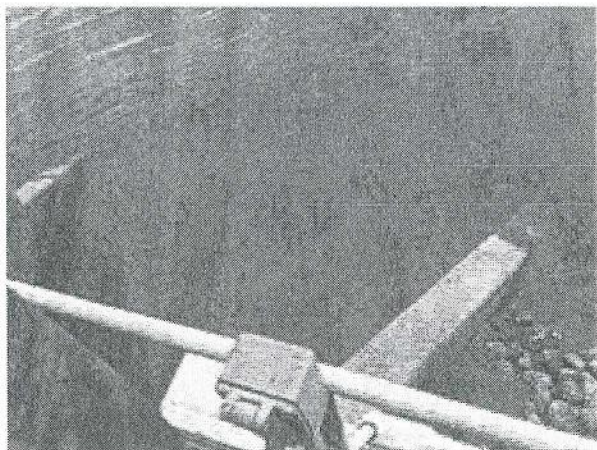
EPA has also notified U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service.

EPA Actions: EPA OSC Andy Maguire and START are mobilizing to the scene to conduct water sampling. Investigations are under way to determine how the hexavalent chrome released, the amount of hexavalent chrome released and the extent of the release into the waterway.

The facility has minimized the amount of water it is using to essential systems only to reduce through put.

Media Interest: No media interest at this time.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672



Craig Thomas
US EPA Region 5 On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Branch
77 W. Jackson Blvd., SE-5J
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-5907 office
312-802-9637 cell



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Maraldo, Dean

From: Maraldo, Dean
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 3:18 PM
To: Mendez, Thomas
Subject: RE: USS data update

Ok, I'll ask Andy if he knows. It would be good to identify who took these pictures. In terms of the report.

From: Mendez, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 2:40 PM
To: Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: USS data update

Yeah not sure where this pic came from. (Or the other one with the trough)

Thomas Mendez
Emergency Response Branch
On Scene Coordinator
U.S. EPA Region 5
77 W Jackson Blvd (SE-5J)
Chicago, Illinois 60604
312-353-8242

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From: Maraldo, Dean
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 2:39 PM
To: Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: USS data update

Thanks. Did you guys take this pic? Is it the repaired fitting? Looks like its still dripping some kind of liquid. Any recollection?

From: Mendez, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 2:05 PM
To: Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: USS data update

That's my pic

Thomas Mendez
Emergency Response Branch
On Scene Coordinator
U.S. EPA Region 5
77 W Jackson Blvd (SE-5J)
Chicago, Illinois 60604
312-353-8242

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From: Maraldo, Dean
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 2:03 PM
To: Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: USS data update

Photo properties says iPhone 6, 11:20 am on 4/11.

From: Mendez, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 1:59 PM
To: Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: USS data update

I don't believe any of the pics were from USS.

Thomas Mendez
Emergency Response Branch
On Scene Coordinator
U.S. EPA Region 5
77 W Jackson Blvd (SE-5J)
Chicago, Illinois 60604
312-353-8242

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From: Maraldo, Dean
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 1:58 PM
To: Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: USS data update

Ok, as long as it wasn't USS.

From: Mendez, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 1:49 PM
To: Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: USS data update

I think they were me. Would depend on the photo. Could also been START as well.

Thomas Mendez
Emergency Response Branch
On Scene Coordinator
U.S. EPA Region 5
77 W Jackson Blvd (SE-5J)
Chicago, Illinois 60604
312-353-8242

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From: Maraldo, Dean
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 1:48 PM
To: Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: USS data update

Tom: re, the photos of the green discharge you sent me. Did you or Andy take the photos? Thanks.

From: Mendez, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 11:18 AM
To: Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: USS data update

SubscriptionID: R05 US Steel ER
Password: proj3194

Thomas Mendez
Emergency Response Branch
On Scene Coordinator
U.S. EPA Region 5
77 W Jackson Blvd (SE-5J)
Chicago, Illinois 60604
312-353-8242

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From: Maraldo, Dean
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 11:16 AM
To: Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: USS data update

Tom: have you received any new data for April 11 and after? Thanks.

=====
Dean Maraldo
Water Enforcement & Compliance Assurance Branch
U.S. EPA - Region 5
77 West Jackson Blvd. (WC-15J)
Chicago, Illinois 60604
ph: (312) 353-2098
fax: (312) 385-5394
e-mail: maraldo.dean@epa.gov
<http://www.epa.gov/enforcement/>

Maraldo, Dean

From: Maraldo, Dean
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 3:22 PM
To: Maguire, Andrew
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN - 4/12/17 AM update
Attachments: 2.jpg; 1.jpg

Categories: Yellow Category

Andy: Do you know who took these pics and when? It would be really helpful for the inspection report and the case.

Thanks,
Dean

From: Mendez, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 11:33 AM
To: Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>; El-Zein, Jason <el-zein.jason@epa.gov>; Brown, Jaime <brown.jaime@epa.gov>; Ribordy, Michael <ribordy.mike@epa.gov>; Mankowski, Matthew <mankowski.matthew@epa.gov>; Augustyn, James <augustyn.james@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>; Deamer, Eileen <deamer.eileen@epa.gov>; dgreinke@idem.IN.gov
Cc: Behnke, Kristina <behnke.kristina@epa.gov>; Beslow, Mike <beslow.mike@epa.gov>; Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Thomas, Craig <thomas.craig@epa.gov>; Lippert, Jeffrey <lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Cashmere, Jason <cashmere.jason@epa.gov>; Goeks, Todd <goeks.todd@epa.gov>; Johnson, Mark <johnson.mark@epa.gov>; Karecki, Edward <karecki.edward@epa.gov>; Rowan, Anne <rowan.anne@epa.gov>; Reshkin, Karen <Reshkin.Karen@epa.gov>; Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>; Donnelly, Peggy <Donnelly.Peggy@epa.gov>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN - 4/12/17 AM update

Update as of: 4/12/17 at 10:30 CST

Overview: On 4/12/17 at approximately 9:00 CST, Stakeholders convened to discuss the ongoing response at US Steel regarding the release of hexavalent chrome. Stakeholders present included USEPA, US Steel, IDEM, National Park Service and Indiana American Water, Portage Police and a representatives for the beaches of City of Portage.

- US Steel has alleged that the source of the active release has been stopped.
- Active residual can still be seen in water sampling.
- Levels of chrome at the outfall were as high as 2231 ug/L overnight.

EPA, State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action:

- Indiana American Water's intake is still currently shut down.
 - Sampling results of water intake is showing samples slightly above the detection limit but were rerun for confirmation and found to be at or below the limit. Additional sampling is going to be performed.
- Sampling has started inside Burns Ditch this morning
 - Sampling will duplicate the spots sampled on 4/11/17 as well as adding a mid-water depth sample taken with tubing attached to a pump on the boat.

- 5
- National Park Service has currently closed numerous beaches both east and west of Burns Ditch.
 - National Park Service's regional offices have suggested that they will not reopen the beaches without this additional sampling which includes a shore sediment sample.
 - EPA with National Park Service have identified additional sampling locations both east and west of Burns Ditch along the lakeshore where both water and sediment samples will be taken.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672

Q2/2H FS10 SD-25 19914 POTABLE NSF-ASTM F441 B-080424011714HH CA-2 JJ6J 019220 MADE IN U.S.A. BY IPEX

E718V



Maraldo, Dean

From: Maguire, Andrew
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 8:11 PM
To: Maraldo, Dean
Subject: Re: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN - 4/12/17 AM update

Dean,

These were given to me on 4/12 by Mark Henry of US Steel. I'm not sure who took them or when exactly. I believe they would've been taken on 4/11

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 26, 2017, at 15:22, Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov> wrote:

Andy: Do you know who took these pics and when? It would be really helpful for the inspection report and the case.

Thanks,
Dean

From: Mendez, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 11:33 AM
To: Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>; El-Zein, Jason <el-zein.jason@epa.gov>; Brown, Jaime <brown.jaime@epa.gov>; Ribordy, Michael <ribordy.mike@epa.gov>; Mankowski, Matthew <mankowski.matthew@epa.gov>; Augustyn, James <augustyn.james@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>; Deamer, Eileen <deamer.eileen@epa.gov>; dgreinke@idem.IN.gov
Cc: Behnke, Kristina <behnke.kristina@epa.gov>; Beslow, Mike <beslow.mike@epa.gov>; Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Thomas, Craig <thomas.craig@epa.gov>; Lippert, Jeffrey <lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Cashmere, Jason <cashmere.jason@epa.gov>; Goeks, Todd <goeks.todd@epa.gov>; Johnson, Mark <johnson.mark@epa.gov>; Karecki, Edward <karecki.edward@epa.gov>; Rowan, Anne <rowan.anne@epa.gov>; Reshkin, Karen <Reshkin.Karen@epa.gov>; Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>; Donnelly, Peggy <Donnelly.Peggy@epa.gov>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN - 4/12/17 AM update

Update as of: 4/12/17 at 10:30 CST

Overview: On 4/12/17 at approximately 9:00 CST, Stakeholders convened to discuss the ongoing response at US Steel regarding the release of hexavalent chrome. Stakeholders present included USEPA, US Steel, IDEM, National Park Service and Indiana American Water, Portage Police and a representatives for the beaches of City of Portage.

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- Active residual can still be seen in water sampling.
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 - Sampling results of water intake is showing samples slightly above the detection limit but were rerun for confirmation and found to be at or below the limit. Additional sampling is going to be performed.
- Sampling has started inside Burns Ditch this morning
 - Sampling will duplicate the spots sampled on 4/11/17 as well as adding a mid-water depth sample taken with tubing attached to a pump on the boat.
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 - National Park Service's regional offices have suggested that they will not reopen the beaches without this additional sampling which includes a shore sediment sample.
 - EPA with National Park Service have identified additional sampling locations both east and west of Burns Ditch along the lakeshore where both water and sediment samples will be taken.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672

<2.jpg>

<1.jpg>

Maraldo, Dean

From: Mendez, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 3:45 PM
To: Maraldo, Dean
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Categories: Yellow Category

Well US Steel's official story is that it wasn't spilling at around 7pm on the 10th. So the numbers might be inclusive of the overnight 10th to the 11th morning? Not sure how they are interpreting this.

Thomas Mendez
Emergency Response Branch
On Scene Coordinator
U.S. EPA Region 5
77 W Jackson Blvd (SE-5J)
Chicago, Illinois 60604
312-353-8242

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From: Maraldo, Dean
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 3:41 PM
To: Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Yes, it doesn't mention 4/10 though. Only pounds of chromium on 4/11 and 4/12. If you have anything on discharges on 4/10 please send my way. Thanks.

From: Mendez, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 3:31 PM
To: Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Sorry sent too fast.

So the letter to IDEM had the numbers with the release pounds.

I think I sent pics of the letter to you...don't have an electronic copy of it but I think it was sent to Dave Greinke at IDEM.

Thomas Mendez
Emergency Response Branch
On Scene Coordinator
U.S. EPA Region 5
77 W Jackson Blvd (SE-5J)
Chicago, Illinois 60604
312-353-8242

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From: Maraldo, Dean
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 3:27 PM
To: Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Sorry Tom. Hopefully last question. Do you know if this photo was taken on 4/12, and who took the photo?

Also, the update below says US Steel has said based on their compliance composite samplers, they released 138.8 lbs of chrome on April 10th and 206.72 lbs of chrome on 11th. Was this verbal or do you have it in writing? If so, I could use it to demonstrate discharge on 4/10. I know that more recent communications from USS only mentions discharges on 4/11 and 4/12.

Thanks,
Dean

From: Mendez, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 7:05 PM
To: Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>; El-Zein, Jason <el-zein.jason@epa.gov>; Brown, Jaime <brown.jaime@epa.gov>; Ribordy, Michael <ribordy.mike@epa.gov>; Mankowski, Matthew <mankowski.matthew@epa.gov>; Augustyn, James <augustyn.james@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>; Deamer, Eileen <deamer.eileen@epa.gov>; dgreinke@idem.IN.gov
Cc: Eoc, Epahq <Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov>; Behnke, Kristina <behnke.kristina@epa.gov>; Beslow, Mike <beslow.mike@epa.gov>; Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Thomas, Craig <thomas.craig@epa.gov>; Lippert, Jeffrey <lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Cashmere, Jason <cashmere.jason@epa.gov>; Goeks, Todd <goeks.todd@epa.gov>; Johnson, Mark <johnson.mark@epa.gov>; Karecki, Edward <karecki.edward@epa.gov>; Rowan, Anne <rowan.anne@epa.gov>; Reshkin, Karen <Reshkin.Karen@epa.gov>; Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>; Donnelly, Peggy <Donnelly.Peggy@epa.gov>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Update as of: 4/12/17 at 17:30 CST

Overview: Sampling continued for a second day on 4/12/17. Stakeholders convened for an end of day meeting to discuss the ongoing response at US Steel regarding the release of hexavalent chrome. Stakeholders present included USEPA, US Steel, IDEM, National Park Service and Indiana American Water, Portage Police and a representatives for the beaches of City of Portage.

EPA representatives were available to the press for a briefing at approximately 15:30 on 4/12/17 and answered inquiries regarding the response effort.

- Sampling data has been coming in from 4/11/17 sampling events.
 - Some residual chrome can still be seen in water sampling results
- Additional sampling points have been identified and is ongoing.
 - Some predetermined sampling points were not able to be sampled due to safety concerns on the water and the level of wave action. However corresponding shore sediment samples and wading level water samples were taken.
- US Steel has said based on their compliance composite samplers, they released 138.8 lbs of chrome on April 10th and 206.72 lbs of chrome on 11th.

EPA, State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action:

- Indiana American Water's intake is still currently shut down.
- Continued sampling of Burns Ditch and Lake Michigan will continue tomorrow 4/13/17

- 5
- National Park Service beaches are still currently closed.
 - Sediment sampling of the shoreline has started and will correspond with water samples north in Lake Michigan

NEWS Coverage:

<http://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/Chemical-Spill-Forces-Closure-of-Indiana-Dunes-Beaches-419279844.html>

<http://www.fox32chicago.com/news/local/248120304-story>

<http://abc7chicago.com/news/us-steel-reports-chemical-spill-in-portage-canal/1862338/>

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672

Thomas Mendez

Emergency Response Branch

On Scene Coordinator

U.S. EPA Region 5

77 W Jackson Blvd (SE-5J)

Chicago, Illinois 60604

312-353-8242

****Please note as of 01/06/2017: I will no longer be with the Water Division of EPA Region 5 and have taken a position with EPA Region 5 Superfund. For all water related questions please contact my previous supervisor vanitl.barbara@epa.gov ****

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Maraldo, Dean

From: Mendez, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 3:30 PM
To: Maraldo, Dean
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Categories: Yellow Category

Yep 4/12 and it was START.

Thomas Mendez
Emergency Response Branch
On Scene Coordinator
U.S. EPA Region 5
77 W Jackson Blvd (SE-5J)
Chicago, Illinois 60604
312-353-8242

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From: Maraldo, Dean
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 3:27 PM
To: Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Sorry Tom. Hopefully last question. Do you know if this photo was taken on 4/12, and who took the photo?

Also, the update below says US Steel has said based on their compliance composite samplers, they released 138.8 lbs of chrome on April 10th and 206.72 lbs of chrome on 11th. Was this verbal or do you have it in writing? If so, I could use it to demonstrate discharge on 4/10. I know that more recent communications from USS only mentions discharges on 4/11 and 4/12.

Thanks,
Dean

From: Mendez, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 7:05 PM
To: Borries, Samuel <borries.samuel@epa.gov>; El-Zein, Jason <el-zein.jason@epa.gov>; Brown, Jaime <brown.jaime@epa.gov>; Ribordy, Michael <ribordy.mike@epa.gov>; Mankowski, Matthew <mankowski.matthew@epa.gov>; Augustyn, James <augustyn.james@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>; Deamer, Eileen <deamer.eileen@epa.gov>; dgreinke@idem.IN.gov
Cc: Eoc, Epahq <Eoc.Epahq@epa.gov>; Behnke, Kristina <behnke.kristina@epa.gov>; Beslow, Mike <beslow.mike@epa.gov>; Maguire, Andrew <maguire.andrew@epa.gov>; Thomas, Craig <thomas.craig@epa.gov>; Lippert, Jeffrey <lippert.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Cashmere, Jason <cashmere.jason@epa.gov>; Goeks, Todd <goeks.todd@epa.gov>; Johnson, Mark <johnson.mark@epa.gov>; Karecki, Edward <karecki.edward@epa.gov>; Rowan, Anne <rowan.anne@epa.gov>; Reshkin, Karen <Reshkin.Karen@epa.gov>; Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>;

Donnelly, Peggy <Donnelly.Peggy@epa.gov>; Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>

Subject: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Update as of: 4/12/17 at 17:30 CST

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NEWS Coverage:

<http://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/Chemical-Spill-Forces-Closure-of-Indiana-Dunes-Beaches-419279844.html>

<http://www.fox32chicago.com/news/local/248120304-story>

<http://abc7chicago.com/news/us-steel-reports-chemical-spill-in-portage-canal/1862338/>

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672

Thomas Mendez

Emergency Response Branch

On Scene Coordinator

U.S. EPA Region 5

77 W Jackson Blvd (SE-5J)

Chicago, Illinois 60604

312-353-8242

*****Please note as of 01/06/2017: I will no longer be with the Water Division of EPA Region 5 and have taken a position with EPA Region 5 Superfund. For all water related questions please contact my previous supervisor vantil.barbara@epa.gov *****

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Maraldo, Dean

From: Maraldo, Dean
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 2:39 PM
To: Mendez, Thomas
Subject: RE: USS data update
Attachments: 1.jpg

Thanks. Did you guys take this pic? Is it the repaired fitting? Looks like its still dripping some kind of liquid. Any recollection?

From: Mendez, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 2:05 PM
To: Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: USS data update

That's my pic

Thomas Mendez
Emergency Response Branch
On Scene Coordinator
U.S. EPA Region 5
77 W Jackson Blvd (SE-5J)
Chicago, Illinois 60604
312-353-8242

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From: Maraldo, Dean
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 2:03 PM
To: Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: USS data update

Photo properties says iPhone 6, 11:20 am on 4/11.

From: Mendez, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 1:59 PM
To: Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: USS data update

I don't believe any of the pics were from USS.

Thomas Mendez
Emergency Response Branch
On Scene Coordinator
U.S. EPA Region 5
77 W Jackson Blvd (SE-5J)
Chicago, Illinois 60604
312-353-8242

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From: Maraldo, Dean
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 1:58 PM
To: Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: USS data update

Ok, as long as it wasn't USS.

From: Mendez, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 1:49 PM
To: Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: USS data update

I think they were me. Would depend on the photo. Could also been START as well.

Thomas Mendez
Emergency Response Branch
On Scene Coordinator
U.S. EPA Region 5
77 W Jackson Blvd (SE-5J)
Chicago, Illinois 60604
312-353-8242

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From: Maraldo, Dean
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 1:48 PM
To: Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: USS data update

Tom: re, the photos of the green discharge you sent me. Did you or Andy take the photos? Thanks.



Korleski, Christopher

From: Korleski, Christopher
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 2:02 PM
To: Short, Thomas; Henry, Timothy
Cc: Ballotti, Doug; Poy, Thomas
Subject: RE: EOC Daily Management Report April 12, 2017

We are aware of the spill. I have not heard anything about any potential impact on EC. If there is a potential impact, I would like to get up to speed ASAP.

From: Short, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 12:39 PM
To: Henry, Timothy <henry.timothy@epa.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>
Cc: Ballotti, Doug <ballotti.douglas@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: EOC Daily Management Report April 12, 2017

Tim or Chris, do you have any information on the potential release of hexchrome from the US Steel site and its potential impact on the East Chicago water supply?

From: Ballotti, Doug
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 12:36 PM
To: Short, Thomas <short.thomas@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: EOC Daily Management Report April 12, 2017

Tom,

Might want to send this to Chris K and Tim Henry. Sam and Jason may be unavailable.

Thanks. Doug

From: Short, Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 12:29:48 PM
To: Borries, Samuel; El-Zein, Jason
Cc: Guerriero, Margaret; Ballotti, Doug
Subject: FW: EOC Daily Management Report April 12, 2017

Sam or Jason, highlighted below is the hexchrome release impacting East Chicago has peaked HQ interest as we pull together summary bullets for USS Lead. Is there anything else we need to add/update as it relates to East Chicago drinking water? I need to get this to HQ ASAP. Thanks!

From: Stalcup, Dana
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 12:12 PM
To: Short, Thomas <short.thomas@epa.gov>
Cc: Ballotti, Doug <ballotti.douglas@epa.gov>; Guerriero, Margaret <guerriero.margaret@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: EOC Daily Management Report April 12, 2017

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Tom, please see Barry's note about today's EOC daily report about the notification to the East Chicago water folks, and please add to your bullets. In the meantime, I will be reviewing your bullets. Thanks mucho - Dana

Dana Stalcup
Director, Assessment and Remediation Division
OLEM/Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (OSRTI)
Desk – 703-603-8702
Cell – 202-309-5473
Follow us on Twitter @EPALand

From: Breen, Barry
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 1:10 PM
To: Stalcup, Dana <Stalcup.Dana@epa.gov>
Cc: Cheatham, Reggie <cheatham.reggie@epa.gov>; Clark, Becki <Clark.Becki@epa.gov>; Hilosky, Nick <Hilosky.Nick@epa.gov>; Simon, Nigel <Simon.Nigel@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: EOC Daily Management Report April 12, 2017

Dana, I've highlighted one sentence in yellow, fairly deep into the report. Would you invite the Region to say something about this in the bullet points being assembled for the Administrator's upcoming trip?

Barry

From: Eoc, Epahq
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 10:19 AM
Subject: EOC Daily Management Report April 12, 2017

This report is being sent as a bcc to prevent accidental Reply-to-All messages.

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY



EOC Daily Emergency Management Report

Date: 4/12/2017
Time: 10:15 ET
Report Number: 69-17

Alerts & Warnings

FEMA National Watch Center: Watch/Steady State (24/7)
National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS): Heightened Awareness Bulletin Issued
Continuity of Operations (COOP) COGCON Level 4

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EPA HQ EOC is at Steady State/Normal Operations
EPA National IMAT: Regions 1 & 2 Backup Regional Grouping available for deployment.

EPA Headquarters Activities

ASPECT (Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology) is fully operational and located in Kansas City from April 10 at 1300 CT until April 14, 2017 at 1200 CT, with a two-hour delay on April 10 as part of new sensor testing. ASPECT will be located in Addison, TX from April 14 – April 17, 2017.

CMAD Lab Assets: The Sample Log-in Trailer (SLA) and the PHILIS Analytical Lab (PAL) mobile GC/MS lab in the Castle Rock, CO warehouse, are undergoing repairs and are not available to deploy. The PAL's GC/MS analytical systems remain operational. All other CMAD fixed and PHILIS mobile assets are up and operational at their respective lab and warehouse locations in Edison, NJ, Lakewood, CO and Castle Rock, CO.

ERT (Environmental Response Team) assets available for deployment include: ERT TAGAs (Edison, Las Vegas & RTP); Mobile Command Posts and HazMat truck (Erlanger & Las Vegas); and ERT-Edison Mobile Analytical Lab.

Significant National Weather

Widespread rain, with periods of heavy rain, is forecast from coastal California to Washington. Rain will also spill over into the interiors of California, Oregon and Washington. Heavy snow is likely to occur in the northern Cascades and the Sierra Nevada mountain ranges. Showers and thunderstorms will span from the southern Rockies to the Great Lakes region as a surface front slowly moves through the central United States. In New Mexico, western Texas and eastern Nebraska, some thunderstorms may turn severe and produce heavy rain, damaging winds and large hail. Heavy rain may produce flash flooding in western and northern Texas.

Tornado Weather: There is a 5-percent chance of tornado activity today in far western Texas and southeastern New Mexico. There is a 2-percent chance of tornado activity surrounding the higher risk area, as well as in southeastern Nebraska and western Iowa.

Critical Fire Weather: There is no critical fire weather forecast for today across the U.S.

Significant River Flooding: Significant river flooding is occurring in southern Idaho, northern North Dakota, western Illinois, southwestern Louisiana, southwestern Mississippi, northwestern Indiana, central Texas, and south-central New York. Significant river flooding is possible across portions of the middle Mississippi Valley and the Great Lakes.

Tropical Weather: There are no tropical cyclones threatening the U.S. or its territories.

Earthquake Activity: No significant activity affecting the U.S. or its territories.

Report of Incident Notifications

Region 5, U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chromium Release, Portage, IN (NRC# 1175399): On April 11 at approximately 09:30 CT, U.S. Steel Corporation discovered a green discoloration in the water near an outfall at their facility and discharging into Burns Waterway (or Burns Ditch) in Portage, Indiana. The investigation into the cause and volume of hexavalent chromium released is still underway. The release is still ongoing at the outfall. Indiana American Water in Ogden Dunes, the nearest municipal water source, shut down their intake. The intake is still shut down at this time with water reserves struggling. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), National Park Service and Indiana American Water were on scene. Out of precaution, the National Park Service has shut down the nearby lakefront and beaches. EPA also notified local water intakes in Gary, East Chicago, and Ogden Dunes. Three EPA Region 5 OSCs are on

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site along with START contractors taking water samples upstream of the outfall, at the outfall, and downstream of the outfall. Two samples were also taken at the nearby Indiana American Water intake and wet well. The highest concentration of hexavalent chromium in the samples detected at the outfall was 949 parts per billion (ppb). The samples taken at the American Water intake and wet well were non-detections for total chromium.

Exercises/Predeployments

None at this time

Regional Daily Ops Status Report

There were 20 response.epa.gov websites created and/or updated during this reporting period: 4/11/2017 – 4/12/2017.

Reported activities primarily represent NRC notifications with some State-level and other notifications to Regional Phone Duty Officers.

Reported Activities (4/11/2017 – 4/12/2017)

Region	Oil	Hazmat	Radiation	Other	Total
Region 1	0	0	0	0	0
Region 2	6	0	0	4	10
Region 3	0	0	0	0	0
Region 4	15	2	0	3	20
Region 5	7	4	0	1	12
Region 6	7	4	0	1	12
Region 7	0	1	0	1	2
Region 8	2	3	0	0	5
Region 9	3	1	0	0	4
Region 10	1	1	0	2	4
Total	41	16	0	12	69

Note: There were 5 unclassified events in the Hotline Log.

John Latham Jr., Watch Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Headquarters Emergency Operations Center
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, DC 20004
202-564-3850
<mailto:eoc.epahq@epa.gov>

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Kuefler, Patrick

From: Bassler, Rachel
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 11:23 AM
To: Poy, Thomas
Cc: Maraldo, Dean; Bair, Rita; Bahr, Ryan; Kuefler, Patrick; Kelley, Jeff; Korleski, Christopher
Subject: RE: Northwest Indiana Times Question - chemical spill

Thanks Dean and Tom. I continue to receive questions on whether there is an action level for hexavalent chromium and if 2 ppb is above that level? I drafted a statement to share with interested reporters based on your responses. Thoughts?

Statement on Hexavalent Chromium at U.S. Steel chemical spill

EPA has a national drinking water standard for total chromium of 100 parts per billion. The maximum contaminant level for total chromium includes both trivalent chromium and hexavalent chromium of 100 ug/L or 100 parts per billion.

EPA does not have a hexavalent chromium standard; however, EPA is currently evaluating health effects data to determine a hexavalent chromium maximum contaminant level is needed.

Preliminary data suggests that hexavalent chromium from the spill is not present near drinking water intakes.

For additional information on chromium drinking water standards, please visit our website:
<https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations/chromium-drinking-water>

Rachel Bassler
Press Officer
U.S. EPA Region 5
bassler.rachel@epa.gov
p: 312-886-7159
c: 312-914-3393

From: Poy, Thomas
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 6:51 PM
To: Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>
Cc: Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>; Bair, Rita <bair.rita@epa.gov>; Bahr, Ryan <bahr.ryan@epa.gov>; Kuefler, Patrick <kuefler.patrick@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Northwest Indiana Times Question - chemical spill

Dean is correct. There is an MCL for Total Chromium, which includes both Trivalent Chromium and Hexavalent Chromium, of 100 ug/L or 100 ppb. Trivalent Chromium and Hexavalent Chromium readily convert to one another. There is no MCL for Hexavalent Chromium. EPA is evaluating the health effects data to determine whether the Total Chromium MCL needs to be modified or a Hexavalent Chromium MCL is needed.

Tom Poy
Chief, Ground and Drinking Water Branch

USEPA - Region 5
(312) 886-5991

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On Apr 13, 2017, at 5:21 PM, Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov> wrote:

All – the reporter is pinging – any way we can get an answer for the first question? Does this website explain it? <https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations/chromium-drinking-water>

Question: Does EPA have an allowable limit for hexavalent chromium? Is 2,231 ug/L exceptionally high?

Rachel Bassler
Press Officer
U.S. EPA Region 5
bassler.rachel@epa.gov
p: 312-886-7159
c: 312-914-3393

From: Maraldo, Dean
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 3:59 PM
To: Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>
Cc: Poy, Thomas <poy.thomas@epa.gov>; Bair, Rita <bair.rita@epa.gov>; Bahr, Ryan <bahr.ryan@epa.gov>; Kuefler, Patrick <kuefler.patrick@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Northwest Indiana Times Question

Rachel: re question 1 - I believe there is a national drinking water standard for total chromium of 100 ppb. I don't believe there is a hex chromium standard. So, yes, 2,231 ug/l would exceed the primary standard for drinking water. I'll defer to our drinking water program (Tom or Rita?)

Question 2: I am not aware of any EPA enforcement at this facility. At least not for NPDES-related violations. State issued informal enforcement actions back in 2012-13. I'm cc'ing Ryan and Pat to see if they have any memory of NPDES enforcement at US Steel in Portage.

From: Bassler, Rachel
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 3:34 PM
To: Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Northwest Indiana Times Question

Hi Dean,

For the second question, is there a database we can point the reporter to?

Thanks,
Rachel

Rachel Bassler
Press Officer
U.S. EPA Region 5
bassler.rachel@epa.gov

p: 312-886-7159
c: 312-914-3393

From: Ribordy, Michael
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 3:30 PM
To: Bassler, Rachel <Bassler.Rachel@epa.gov>
Cc: Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Northwest Indiana Times Question

Rachel,
Talk with Dean Maraldo in Water. He should at least be able to help with question 1 and probably 2.

From: Bassler, Rachel
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 2:30 PM
To: Ribordy, Michael <ribordy.mike@epa.gov>
Subject: Northwest Indiana Times Question

Hi Mike,

Do you know who the best person to answer these questions would be?

Does EPA have an allowable limit for hexavalent chromium? Is 2,231 ug/L exceptionally high?

Has the EPA conducted any enforcement activities in the past for U.S. Steel conducted controlled spills? I was told EPA ordered U.S. Steel to stop at some point. Can you point me to documents on EPA's website relating to this?

Susan,

I understand the concerns, questions and comments referenced in your email regarding the investigation process and potential enforcement actions related to the hexavalent chromium release incident. As you mentioned in your email, it is too early in the process to make specific comments about them, but I can tell you that U.S EPA will continue to work with other federal, state and local agencies and stakeholders during the investigation. This process will take time, so exercising patience and continuing to follow up the developments of the investigation are helpful steps.

Hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

Adrian

Adrian Palomeque

Community Involvement Coordinator

EPA Region 5 / Superfund Division

77 W. Jackson Blvd.

Chicago, IL 60604

Phone: (312) 353-2035

Fax: (312) 692-2488

palomeque.adrian@epa.gov

From: Susan MiHalo [<mailto:smihalo@TNC.ORG>]

Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2017 9:42 AM

To: Palomeque, Adrian <Palomeque.Adrian@epa.gov>

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Subject: RE: UPDATE: EPA FINDS NO IMMEDIATE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS FROM CHROMIUM RELEASE; BEACHES REOPEN, U.S. STEEL PLANT RESUMES OPERATIONS

Hi Adrian:

Thanks so much for being so responsive.

I have an Ogden Dunes Environmental Advisory Board meeting tonight. I realize that there are still some monitoring things to work out with the National Park and hopefully the OD beach as well. It troubles me that several people are commenting that they think U.S. Steel "will get off with a slap on the hands." I've tried to assure them that, while it takes a long time to play out, and enforcement action will most likely take place on the EPA level. So what happens next and how does the town need to be involved so that we can protect our residents in the future? Will there be an investigation and potential enforcement action? Were there any wildlife impacts that could potentially result in Natural Resource Damages settlement?

I realize it may be too early to answer those questions, but I have to ask.

Susan

From: Palomeque, Adrian [<mailto:Palomeque.Adrian@epa.gov>]

Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2017 11:47 AM

To: Susan MiHalo <smihalo@TNC.ORG>

Subject: RE: UPDATE: EPA FINDS NO IMMEDIATE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS FROM CHROMIUM RELEASE; BEACHES REOPEN, U.S. STEEL PLANT RESUMES OPERATIONS

Ms. MiHalo,

Thank you for forwarding me the information. I will share it with the corresponding EPA personnel here in Region 5.

Have a good day.

Adrian Palomeque

Community Involvement Coordinator

EPA Region 5 / Superfund Division

77 W. Jackson Blvd.

Chicago, IL 60604

Phone: (312) 353-2035

Fax: (312) 692-2488

palomeque.adrian@epa.gov

From: Susan MiHalo [<mailto:smihalo@TNC.ORG>]

Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2017 9:06 AM

To: Palomeque, Adrian <Palomeque.Adrian@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: UPDATE: EPA FINDS NO IMMEDIATE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS FROM CHROMIUM RELEASE; BEACHES REOPEN, U.S. STEEL PLANT RESUMES OPERATIONS

Disappointed to see that USS also had an exceedance in January. I'm pretty sure our Ogden Dunes Waterworks was not notified. Their NPDES permit is really weak on the notification side of things, in

5
my opinion, considering they are discharging to an OSRW and a major source of drinking water with an intake about a mile away or less.

Susan

From: Palomeque, Adrian [mailto:Palomeque.Adrian@epa.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2017 7:39 AM

Subject: UPDATE: EPA FINDS NO IMMEDIATE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS FROM CHROMIUM RELEASE; BEACHES REOPEN, U.S. STEEL PLANT RESUMES OPERATIONS

Good morning.

You are receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in the hexavalent chromium release reported on April 11, 2017 in Portage, Indiana. Below is the latest update.

Adrian Palomeque

Community Involvement Coordinator

EPA Region 5 / Superfund Division

77 W. Jackson Blvd.

Chicago, IL 60604

Phone: (312) 353-2035

Fax: (312) 692-2488

palomeque.adrian@epa.gov

FINAL UPDATE: EPA FINDS NO IMMEDIATE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS FROM CHROMIUM RELEASE; BEACHES REOPEN, U.S. STEEL PLANT RESUMES OPERATIONS

EPA's water testing continues to show no hexavalent chromium impacts to the Burns Waterway or Lake Michigan. All results from water samples taken the last 3 days have shown hexavalent chromium below EPA's reporting limit of 1 part per billion. EPA will post preliminary data on its website and will provide more results as they are available.

Over the weekend, EPA monitored the U.S. Steel line-by-line startup process and did not detect any additional hexavalent chromium from the outfall. Today, U.S. Steel resumed full operations. EPA will continue to monitor and sample the water bodies today and tomorrow.

The National Park Service has reopened its neighboring beaches and Indiana American Water is working with IDEM to reopen their Ogden Dunes drinking water intake.

The National Park Service will oversee a long term sampling and monitoring plan. EPA will work with NPS to develop and implement this monitoring protocol.

Information about EPA's response to the spill is online at:
<https://response.epa.gov/USSteelHexavalentChrome>.

Rachel Bassler
Press Officer

U.S. EPA Region 5
bassler.rachel@epa.gov
p: 312-886-7159
c: 312-914-3393

5

5

Maraldo, Dean

From: Coleman, James
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 4:30 PM
To: Bahr, Ryan
Cc: Maraldo, Dean; Jurevis, John; Lenell, Brian
Subject: RE: U.S Steel Portage, IN
Attachments: netdmr_cor_zips_1491945959513.zip

Here's a copy for the 1/17 DMR and attachments from NetDMR.

From: Bahr, Ryan
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 4:16 PM
To: Coleman, James <coleman.james@epa.gov>
Cc: Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>; Jurevis, John <Jurevis.John@epa.gov>; Lenell, Brian <lenell.brian@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: U.S Steel Portage, IN

Thank you James!

Is there any way to see the comment relevant to the Jan 2107 hex chrome violation?

Chromium, hexavalent dissolved [as Cr]	See Comments	DAILY MX	Pounds per Day	.51	2.37	01/31/2017
---	-----------------	----------	-------------------	-----	------	------------

From: Coleman, James
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 4:09 PM
To: Bahr, Ryan <bahr.ryan@epa.gov>
Cc: Maraldo, Dean <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>; Jurevis, John <Jurevis.John@epa.gov>; Lenell, Brian <lenell.brian@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: U.S Steel Portage, IN

From: Bahr, Ryan
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 3:29 PM
To: Coleman, James <coleman.james@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: U.S Steel Portage, IN

James can you run a report today of the violations from this facility for the past 5 years?

Please send to me and:

Dean Maraldo <Maraldo.Dean@epa.gov>; Jurevis, John <Jurevis.John@epa.gov>; Lenell, Brian <lenell.brian@epa.gov>

From: Middleton, Keith
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 2:09 PM

5

To: Bahr, Ryan <bahr.ryan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: U.S Steel Portage, IN

More Background Information:

Facility Location: 6300 US 12
US 12 & SR 249
PORTAGE, IN 463681287

SIC Code - 3316 = Cold Finishing Of Steel Shapes

NPDES Outfall effected is 004

Keith Middleton, PE
Environmental Engineer
Water Division - Enforcement &
Compliance Assurance Branch,
USEPA, Region 5
Phone: 312-886-6465
FAX: 312-697-2534
middleton.keith@epa.gov

From: Middleton, Keith
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:38 PM
To: Bahr, Ryan <bahr.ryan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: U.S Steel Portage, IN

Picture of discharge -

Keith Middleton, PE
Environmental Engineer
Water Division - Enforcement &
Compliance Assurance Branch,
USEPA, Region 5
Phone: 312-886-6465
FAX: 312-697-2534
middleton.keith@epa.gov

From: Middleton, Keith
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 12:49 PM
To: Bahr, Ryan <bahr.ryan@epa.gov>
Subject: U.S Steel Portage, IN

Privileged and Confidential

Here is some information on this:

- I did talk to Nick Reams, he is unable to go to the site but he will let his emergency response people at IDEM know.

- 5
- I believe the permit number is IN0000337; I could not obtain a permit from IDEM virtual file cabinet but I did check in ECHO and noticed they exceeded their hex-chrome limit for Outfall 304 last quarter. I am not sure if that's the effected outfall.

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Compliance Assurance Branch,,
USEPA, Region 5
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middleton.keith@epa.gov

From: Thomas, Craig
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 12:31 PM
To: Middleton, Keith <middleton.keith@epa.gov>
Subject: US Steel Outfall

Pictures to follow

Top of Form

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NATIONAL RESPONSE CENTER 1-800-424-8802

GOVERNMENT USE ONLYGOVERNMENT USE ONLY***

Information released to a third party shall comply with any
applicable federal and/or state Freedom of Information and Privacy Laws

Incident Report # 1175399

INCIDENT DESCRIPTION

*Report taken by: CIV JUSTIN MURRAY at 10:33 on 11-APR-17

Incident Type: FIXED

Incident Cause: UNKNOWN

Affected Area: BURNS WATERWAY

Incident was discovered on 11-APR-17 at 09:30 local incident time.

Affected Medium: WATER / BURNS WATERWAY

REPORTING PARTY

Name: MARK HENRY

Organization: UNITED STATES STEEL CORPORATION

Address: US HWY 12

PORTAGE, IN 46368

PRIMARY Phone: (219)7635869 CELLULAR Phone: (219)7127619

Type of Organization: PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

SUSPECTED RESPONSIBLE PARTY

Name: MARK HENRY

Organization: UNITED STATES STEEL CORPORATION

Address: US HWY 12

PORTAGE, IN 46368

PRIMARY Phone: (219)7635869 CELLULAR Phone: (219)7127619

Type of Organization: PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

INCIDENT LOCATION

US HWY 12 County: PORTER

City: PORTAGE State: IN Zip: 46368

RELEASED MATERIAL(S)

CHRIS Code: UNK Official Material Name: UNKNOWN MATERIAL

Also Known As:

Qty Released: 0 UNKNOWN AMOUNT

Qty in Water: 0 UNKNOWN AMOUNT

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

CALLER IS REPORTING THE DISCOVERY OF A DISCOLORATION IN THE WATER NEAR AN OUTFALL AT THEIR FACILITY. THE SO

INCIDENT DETAILS

Package: NO

Building ID:

Type of Fixed Object: MANUFACTURING FACILITY

Power Generating Facility: NO
Generating Capacity:
Type of Fuel:
NPDES:
NPDES Compliance: UNKNOWN

---WATER INFORMATION---

Body of Water: BURNS WATERWAY
Tributary of: LAKE MICHIGAN
Nearest River Mile Marker:
Water Supply Contaminated: UNKNOWN

IMPACT

Fire Involved: NO Fire Extinguished: UNKNOWN

INJURIES: NO Hospitalized: Empl/Crew: Passenger:

FATALITIES: NO Empl/Crew: Passenger: Occupant:

EVACUATIONS: NO Who Evacuated: Radius/Area:

Damages: NO

		Hours	Direction of
<u>Closure Type</u>	<u>Description of Closure</u>	<u>Closed</u>	<u>Closure</u>
Air:	N		
Road:	N		M
			N
Waterway:	N		
Track:	N		

Passengers Transferred: NO
Environmental Impact: UNKNOWN
Media Interest: UNKNOWN Community Impact due to Material:

REMEDIAL ACTIONS

AREA WAS SHUT DOWN. INCIDENT IS BEING INVESTIGATED.

Release Secured: UNKNOWN
Release Rate:
Estimated Release Duration:

WEATHER

Weather: PARTLY CLOUDY, 40°F

ADDITIONAL AGENCIES NOTIFIED

Federal:

State/Local:

State/Local On Scene:

State Agency Number:

NOTIFICATIONS BY NRC

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL (GRASP)

11-APR-17 10:40 (770)4887100

DHS NOC (NOC)

11-APR-17 10:40 (202)2828114

CG INVESTIGATIVE SVC CHICAGO (CGIS RAO CHICAGO)

11-APR-17 10:40 (630)9862160

DHS DEFENSE THREAT REDUCTION AGENCY (CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL TECHNOLOGIES DEPAR

11-APR-17 10:40 (703)7673477

MI OFFICE OF INTEL AND ANALYSIS (FIELD OPERATIONS DIVISION)

11-APR-17 10:40 (919)9674500

DOT CRISIS MANAGEMENT CENTER (MAIN OFFICE)

11-APR-17 10:40 (202)3661863

EPA CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION (CID REGION V)

11-APR-17 10:40 (312)8869872

U.S. EPA V (MAIN OFFICE)

11-APR-17 10:42 (312)3532318 MARITOTE

IN STATE DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (SITUATIONAL AWARENESS)

11-APR-17 10:40 (317)2336115

NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE COORD CTR (MAIN OFFICE)

11-APR-17 10:40 (202)2829201

NOAA RPTS FOR IN (MAIN OFFICE)

11-APR-17 10:40 (206)5264911

NATIONAL RESPONSE CENTER HQ (AUTOMATIC REPORTS)

11-APR-17 10:40 (202)2671136

SECTOR LAKE MICHIGAN (COMMAND CENTER)

11-APR-17 10:43 (414)7477182 GRAVES

OFFICE OF ENV. POLICY & COMPLIANCE (MAIN OFFICE)

11-APR-17 10:40 (215)5975012

IN DEPT ENV MNGMT (MAIN OFFICE)

11-APR-17 10:40 (317)2337745

USCG DISTRICT 9 (COMMAND CENTER)

11-APR-17 10:40 (216)9026109

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CALLER WILL MAKE STATE NOTIFICATIONS NEXT.

*** END INCIDENT REPORT # 1175399 ***

Report any problems by calling 1-800-424-8802

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT <http://www.nrc.uscg.mil>

Bottom of Form

Craig Thomas
US EPA Region 5 On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Branch
77 W. Jackson Blvd., SE-5J
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-5907 office
312-802-9637 cell



5

Kuefler, Patrick

From: Bahr, Ryan
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 3:30 PM
To: Maraldo, Dean; Jurevis, John; Lenell, Brian
Cc: Kuefler, Patrick
Subject: FW: U.S Steel Portage, IN
Attachments: image1.jpg

From: Middleton, Keith
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:39 PM
To: Bahr, Ryan <bahr.ryan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: U.S Steel Portage, IN

Picture of discharge -

Keith Middleton, PE
Environmental Engineer
Water Division - Enforcement &
Compliance Assurance Branch,
USEPA, Region 5
Phone: 312-886-6465
FAX: 312-697-2534
middleton.keith@epa.gov

From: Middleton, Keith
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 12:49 PM
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Subject: U.S Steel Portage, IN

Privileged and Confidential

Here is some information on this:

- I did talk to Nick Reams, he is unable to go to the site but he will let his emergency response people at IDEM know.
- I believe the permit number is IN0000337; I could not obtain a permit from IDEM virtual file cabinet but I did check in ECHO and noticed they exceeded their hex-chrome limit for Outfall 304 last quarter. I am not sure if that's the effected outfall.

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middleton.keith@epa.gov

From: Thomas, Craig
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 12:31 PM
To: Middleton, Keith <middleton.keith@epa.gov>
Subject: US Steel Outfall

Pictures to follow

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Incident Report # 1175399

INCIDENT DESCRIPTION

*Report taken by: CIV JUSTIN MURRAY at 10:33 on 11-APR-17

Incident Type: FIXED
Incident Cause: UNKNOWN
Affected Area: BURNS WATERWAY

Incident was discovered on 11-APR-17 at 09:30 local incident time.

Affected Medium: WATER / BURNS WATERWAY

REPORTING PARTY

Name: MARK HENRY
Organization: UNITED STATES STEEL CORPORATION
Address: US HWY 12

PORTAGE, IN 46368

PRIMARY Phone: (219)7635869 CELLULAR Phone: (219)7127619
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Organization: UNITED STATES STEEL CORPORATION

Address: US HWY 12

PORTAGE, IN 46368

PRIMARY Phone: (219)7635869 CELLULAR Phone: (219)7127619

Type of Organization: PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

INCIDENT LOCATION

US HWY 12 County: PORTER

City: PORTAGE State: IN Zip: 46368

RELEASED MATERIAL(S)

CHRIS Code: UNK Official Material Name: UNKNOWN MATERIAL

Also Known As:

Qty Released: 0 UNKNOWN AMOUNT

Qty in Water: 0 UNKNOWN AMOUNT

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

CALLER IS REPORTING THE DISCOVERY OF A DISCOLORATION IN THE WATER NEAR AN OUTFALL AT THEIR FACILITY. THE SO

INCIDENT DETAILS

Package: NO

Building ID:

Type of Fixed Object: MANUFACTURING FACILITY

Power Generating Facility: NO

Generating Capacity:

Type of Fuel:

NPDES:

NPDES Compliance: UNKNOWN

---WATER INFORMATION---

Body of Water: BURNS WATERWAY

Tributary of: LAKE MICHIGAN

Nearest River Mile Marker:

Water Supply Contaminated: UNKNOWN

IMPACT

Fire Involved: NO Fire Extinguished: UNKNOWN

INJURIES: NO Hospitalized: Empl/Crew: Passenger:

FATALITIES: NO Empl/Crew: Passenger: Occupant:

EVACUATIONS: NO Who Evacuated: Radius/Area:

Damages: NO

Hours

Direction of

Closure Type

Description of Closure

Closed

Closure

Air: N

Road: N

M

N

Waterway: N

Track: N

Passengers Transferred: NO

Environmental Impact: UNKNOWN

Media Interest: UNKNOWN Community Impact due to Material:

REMEDIAL ACTIONS

AREA WAS SHUT DOWN. INCIDENT IS BEING INVESTIGATED.

Release Secured: UNKNOWN

Release Rate:

Estimated Release Duration:

5

WEATHER

Weather: PARTLY CLOUDY, ⬡F

ADDITIONAL AGENCIES NOTIFIED

Federal:

State/Local:

State/Local On Scene:

State Agency Number:

NOTIFICATIONS BY NRC

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11-APR-17 10:40 (317)2337745

USCG DISTRICT 9 (COMMAND CENTER)

11-APR-17 10:40 (216)9026109

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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*** END INCIDENT REPORT # 1175399 ***

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Craig Thomas
US EPA Region 5 On-Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Branch
77 W. Jackson Blvd., SE-5J
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-5907 office
312-802-9637 cell



5

Kuefler, Patrick

From: Maraldo, Dean
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2017 8:30 AM
To: Henry, Timothy; Poy, Thomas; Kuefler, Patrick; Bahr, Ryan; Korleski, Christopher
Subject: Fw: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

All: I just heard from Tom Mendez that US Steel does plan to restart the plant today. May have already started. Tom expects significant press interest related to startup and City of Chicago's low level chromium detection three miles out. I believe the OSCs plan to provide an update after the 9am coordination meeting this morning.

I'm on leave today and won't be able to log in to email. EC500 is on.

=====
Dean Maraldo
Water Enforcement & Compliance Assurance Branch
U.S. EPA - Region 5
77 West Jackson Blvd. (WC-15J)
Chicago, Illinois 60604
ph: (312) 353-2098
fax: (312) 385-5394
e-mail: maraldo.dean@epa.gov
<http://www.epa.gov/enforcement/>

From: Mendez, Thomas
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 7:04 PM
To: Borries, Samuel; El-Zein, Jason; Brown, Jaime; Ribordy, Michael; Mankowski, Matthew; Augustyn, James; Kelley, Jeff; Bassler, Rachel; Deamer, Eileen; dgreinke@idem.IN.gov
Cc: Eoc, Epahq; Behnke, Kristina; Beslow, Mike; Maguire, Andrew; Thomas, Craig; Lippert, Jeffrey; Cashmere, Jason; Goeks, Todd; Johnson, Mark; Karecki, Edward; Rowan, Anne; Reshkin, Karen; Maraldo, Dean; Donnelly, Peggy; Poy, Thomas; Henry, Timothy; Korleski, Christopher
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN

Update as of: 4/13/17 at 18:00 CST

Overview: Stakeholders convened for an end of day meeting to discuss the ongoing response at US Steel regarding the release of hexavalent chrome. Stakeholders present included USEPA, US Steel, IDEM, National Park Service and Indiana American Water, Portage Police, Local Councilman and a representatives for the beaches of City of Portage. Sampling continued and completed for a third day on 4/13/17.

- Sampling Data
 - Data has been coming in from earlier sampling events.
 - New EPA sampling data is expected tomorrow afternoon.
 - US Steel sampling data has been shared with stakeholders.
 - EPA is preparing data management resources to bring the data together in a more presentable form.

- 5
- Stakeholders were aware of sampling efforts performed by the City of Chicago and a 2ppb result roughly 3 miles north of Burns Waterway.
 - Current Sampling
 - Boat water sampling completed and all points planed were taken.
 - Shoreline and wading level sediment and water samples were completed.
 - US Steel is working on plans for a plant restart which would include adding more wastewater to the treatment plant thus increasing discharge. Timelines are not known at this time but EPA, NPS, and IDEM have expressed concerns about doing this prior to reopening beaches and the water intake. **(DO NOT ADD TO PRESS OR PUBLIC RELEASES)**

EPA, State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action:

- Indiana American Water
- Indiana American Water will continue to have their water intake closed and has indicated that it will not be reopened until at least Monday. They have requested sampling to continue and are looking for three consecutive days of non-detect.
- National Park Service
- National Park Service will continue to have their beaches closed until sampling data can show that no contamination is present. Sampling at their beaches continues.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672

Thomas Mendez

Emergency Response Branch
 On Scene Coordinator
 U.S. EPA Region 5
 77 W Jackson Blvd (SE-5J)
 Chicago, Illinois 60604
 312-353-8242

Kuefler, Patrick

From: Bahr, Ryan
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 1:06 PM
To: Kuefler, Patrick
Subject: FW: U.S Steel Portage, IN

There is hexavalent chromium being discharged from U.S. Steel. Mendez and another OSC are there.

From: Middleton, Keith
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 12:49 PM
To: Bahr, Ryan <bahr.ryan@epa.gov>
Subject: U.S Steel Portage, IN

Privileged and Confidential

Here is some information on this:

- I did talk to Nick Reams, he is unable to go to the site but he will let his emergency response people at IDEM know.
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Subject: US Steel Outfall

Pictures to follow

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Incident Cause: UNKNOWN

Affected Area: BURNS WATERWAY

Incident was discovered on 11-APR-17 at 09:30 local incident time.

Affected Medium: WATER / BURNS WATERWAY

REPORTING PARTY

Name: MARK HENRY

Organization: UNITED STATES STEEL CORPORATION

Address: US HWY 12

PORTAGE, IN 46368

PRIMARY Phone: (219)7635869 CELLULAR Phone: (219)7127619

Type of Organization: PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

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Address: US HWY 12

PORTAGE, IN 46368

PRIMARY Phone: (219)7635869 CELLULAR Phone: (219)7127619

Type of Organization: PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

INCIDENT LOCATION

US HWY 12 County: PORTER

City: PORTAGE State: IN Zip: 46368

RELEASED MATERIAL(S)

CHRIS Code: UNK Official Material Name: UNKNOWN MATERIAL
Also Known As:

Qty Released: 0 UNKNOWN AMOUNT Qty in Water: 0 UNKNOWN AMOUNT

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

CALLER IS REPORTING THE DISCOVERY OF A DISCOLORATION IN THE WATER NEAR AN OUTFALL AT THEIR FACILITY. THE SO

INCIDENT DETAILS

Package: NO
Building ID:
Type of Fixed Object: MANUFACTURING FACILITY
Power Generating Facility: NO
Generating Capacity:
Type of Fuel:
NPDES:
NPDES Compliance: UNKNOWN

---WATER INFORMATION---

Body of Water: BURNS WATERWAY
Tributary of: LAKE MICHIGAN
Nearest River Mile Marker:
Water Supply Contaminated: UNKNOWN

IMPACT

Fire Involved: NO Fire Extinguished: UNKNOWN

INJURIES: NO Hospitalized: Empl/Crew: Passenger:

FATALITIES: NO Empl/Crew: Passenger: Occupant:

EVACUATIONS: NO Who Evacuated: Radius/Area:

Damages: NO

<u>Closure Type</u>	<u>Description of Closure</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Direction of Closure</u>
---------------------	-------------------------------	--------------	-----------------------------

Air:	N		
------	---	--	--

Road:	N		
-------	---	--	--

M

N

Waterway:	N		
-----------	---	--	--

Track:	N		
--------	---	--	--

Passengers Transferred: NO

Environmental Impact: UNKNOWN

Media Interest: UNKNOWN Community Impact due to Material:

REMEDIAL ACTIONS

AREA WAS SHUT DOWN. INCIDENT IS BEING INVESTIGATED.

Release Secured: UNKNOWN

Release Rate:

Estimated Release Duration:

WEATHER

Weather: PARTLY CLOUDY, 40°F

ADDITIONAL AGENCIES NOTIFIED

Federal:

State/Local:

State/Local On Scene:

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IN STATE DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (SITUATIONAL AWARENESS)

11-APR-17 10:40 (317)2336115

NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE COORD CTR (MAIN OFFICE)

11-APR-17 10:40 (202)2829201

NOAA RPTS FOR IN (MAIN OFFICE)

11-APR-17 10:40 (206)5264911

NATIONAL RESPONSE CENTER HQ (AUTOMATIC REPORTS)

11-APR-17 10:40 (202)2671136

SECTOR LAKE MICHIGAN (COMMAND CENTER)

11-APR-17 10:43 (414)7477182 GRAVES

OFFICE OF ENV. POLICY & COMPLIANCE (MAIN OFFICE)

11-APR-17 10:40 (215)5975012

IN DEPT ENV MNGMT (MAIN OFFICE)

11-APR-17 10:40 (317)2337745

USCG DISTRICT 9 (COMMAND CENTER)

11-APR-17 10:40 (216)9026109

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CALLER WILL MAKE STATE NOTIFICATIONS NEXT.

*** END INCIDENT REPORT #

1175399 ***

Report any problems by calling 1-800-424-8802

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT <http://www.nrc.uscg.mil>

Bottom of Form

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